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FBIS-LAT-93-053 *22 March 1993*

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Cuba

Castro Attends Seminar on Primary Medical Care

FL2003133993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is attending the afternoon session of the Fourth International Seminar on Primary Medical Care. This afternoon's session is devoted to the subject of family medicine. Speaking at the forum in Havana, which will end tomorrow, Dr. (Richard Hoyle), the assistant executive director of UNICEF, expressed profound admiration for Cuba's achievements in reducing infant mortality, which in less than five years has reached the rate of 10.2 per 1,000 live births.

He stressed that the most praiseworthy thing about this achievement is that it has been made during the country's greatest crisis, with the interruption of the international market and other events. This is why UNICEF is proud to hear about these achievements, which represent millions of lives of children and other people.

Addresses Health Care Professionals

FL2003163093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 93

["Excerpts" from remarks by President Fidel Castro at the 19 March session of the Fourth International Seminar on Primary Medical Care held in Havana 17 to 21 March—recorded]

[Text] [Begin Castro recording] There has been massive growth in our number of doctors, to the point that today we have approximately 42,000, from the 6,000, of whom only 3,000 were left. Today we have 42,000, and from the latest courses we have been graduating 4,000 doctors per year, with the feature that each graduated doctor has a job guaranteed. We have therefore left no university graduate on the street. How do we do it? We do not even know how we do it. We divide the little we have as equitably as possible. But we give to everyone, including [words indistinct] at middle level; we also give to them. If we do not give them a job, we provide an income. No one is left without what they need. That is one of the features of our society. [end recording]

In front of the more than 400 delegates invited from approximately 30 countries, the leader of the Revolution pointed out that Cuba has been able to develop a program for basic medical care because of the logic with which the government and the Ministry of Public Health has used this service.

[Begin Castro recording] We began experimenting. It has already been 10 years since we began experimenting. It is incredible that time has gone by so fast. It is going to be ten years since we sent the first 10 doctors. We sent a group of doctors to work next to a [word indistinct]. As we have mentioned here, there was not even a [word indistinct]. They worked in the garage of a neighbor's home, or they would work in the home of a neighbor whose relative had died, and since they had not given the room to anybody else, they would give it to the doctor. [end recording]

In his speech, Fidel acknowledged the efforts of international health organizations for their achievements in lowering infant mortality rates around the world. He exhorted the ministers of Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, who were present at the meeting, to persuade their governments that the only way was to develop the health system in each of the area's countries.

[Begin Castro recording] Many things can be learned from our experience. There are varied social systems in the countries that have learned many things from us. The case of [word indistinct] has been mentioned. There, they have created house-clinics [casa consultorios] that are adapted to the specific conditions of the [word indistinct] and the area. They are not exactly the same as ours but they did it. And more than one Brazilian state has been thinking about making house-clinics with family doctors under a similar concept. But, it would be adapted to the country's condition. [end recording]

Fidel also spoke of the atmospheric phenomenon that recently affected us. He pointed out that this tropical hurricane cannot be compared to the hurricane that has been harming our country for more than three decades.

[Begin Castro recording] It has done much more, since we were already going through all types of difficulties. But we have another hurricane that persists, which has been blowing for more than 30 years. It is the U.S. embargo for more than 30 years. The damage it has caused is no less than the damage caused by these natural disasters, because it is a constant disaster that weighs heavily on our economy and creates enormous difficulties for our economy, especially under the circumstances by which the socialist bloc disappeared. We no longer have the important point of support we once had. Today we are alone in that sense; fighting a heroic battle so that the revolution survives. I am in accordance with those who believe it is necessary for the revolution to survive, and that the defeat of the revolution would truly be very harmful for many other countries. [end recording]

Seminar Participants Condemn Embargo

FL2103223393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, and Public Health Minister Julio Teja chaired a ceremony in which 42 health care professionals were honored at the conclusion of the Fourth Seminar on Primary Medical Care. [passage omitted]

This meeting became a Latin American "Yes for Cuba" which enriched the knowledge of the participants and denounced the fact that in the world more than 13 million children under five years of age die every year of

preventable diseases, which represents 3 million infant deaths per day as well as 500,000 mothers who die in labor. [figures as heard]

A document of solidarity with Cuba was unanimously approved during the Fourth Seminar on Primary Medical Care, in which more than 1,000 delegates from 27 countries and four continents participated.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] We denounce the embargo that the U.S. Government has maintained against Cuba for over 30 years and we demand the end of this embargo. We also demand the immediate revocation of the Torricelli Law. We reaffirm that our duty towards the peoples's right of health care, a right that is currently nonexistent in a large number of countries, demands an active position of cooperation and solidarity on the part of all health care professionals. [end recording]

Cuban and foreign ministers and vice ministers as well as representatives of scientific societies and nongovernmental international organizations gave the Carlos J. Finlay award to 42 health care professionals, the genetics medical center, and the National Institute of Oncology and Radiology for their scientific achievements in the country.

Three-Day Eastern Armed Forces Meeting Ends

FL1903150393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The expanded council meeting of the Combat Readiness Preparation Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces held at eastern region units and ranges [poligonos] has ended after three days of fruitful work. This meeting is aimed at perfecting personnel training, economizing resources, and raising the quality of the teaching and of the troops' battle readiness.

Santiago de Cuba Inaugurates Direct Flights to Caracas

FL2203023593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Santiago de Cuba and Venezuela have been connected by a new air route. The new direct route, Caracas-Santiago, was opened with this inaugural flight. The welcoming was in the Santiago style. About 20 journalists and other Venezuelan personalities were the first passengers. The route will be regular and will have four weekly flights. The main goal is to promote the touristic development of Santiago de Cuba. Several enterprises are sponsoring the flight. The representative from one of those firms believes the route will be a success. [passage omitted]

All this could increase Venezuelan tourism in Cuba. Santiago has enough hotel capacity to receive this increase of tourists. The flight also included old friends of the Revolution. [passage omitted]

Cambodia Expresses 'Profound Satisfaction' With Ties

FL1903143693 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Cambodian Chief of State Heng Samrin has expressed his profound satisfaction with the development attained in the relations between his country and Cuba and stressed that the recent electoral process in Cuba constitutes a new success of the Revolution.

Upon receiving Cuban Ambassador Fredesman Turro before the Supreme Council of State of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh, Samrin said he was sure that Cuba, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, will overcome the current difficulties caused by the imperialist economic embargo.

Samrin, who is also honorary president of the Cambodian People's Party affirmed that the Cubans will attain new victories in their just struggle to safeguard their independence, their sovereignty, and the achievements of the Revolution.

Vietnamese, Cuban Ministers Discuss Cooperation

FL2003133193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Representatives of Vietnam and Cuba are holding the 13th working session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation in Havana. Nguyen Cong Tan, the Vietnamese minister of agriculture and the food industry, has spoken with his Cuban counterparts Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, Agriculture Minister Carlos Perez, Fishing Industry Minister Jorge Fernandez, Sugar Industry Minister Juan Herrera, and Public Health Minister Julio Teja. According to the schedule, the negotiations between Vietnam and Cuba will conclude on 22 March with the signing of a bilateral cooperation agreement.

Industrial Investment Sought From Spanish Entrepreneurs

FL1903153393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar93

[Text] Several information meetings [jornadas divulgativas] will be held beginning March 22 with Spanish businessmen at the chambers of commerce of Zaragoza, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, and Madrid with a view to explaining the possibilities for, advantages of, and regulations governing foreign investment in the Cuban industrial sector.

At present, there are over 100 factories in Cuba affected by a lack of spare parts or raw materials. These factories have advanced technology—in several cases, Western technology—and highly qualified personnel.

Raul Torres, economic advisor to the Cuban Embassy in Madrid, says this is an attempt to induce interested

entrepreneurs to complement these scarcities, while providing [Cuba] with their management experience and commercial networks.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Charles Addresses OECS Private Sector on Divestment

FL1903171193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1429 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 19, CANA—Dominica Prime Minister Dame Eugenia Charles says her government will not fully embrace divestment of state assets unless fully convinced that it is necessary. Charles declared her stand on this while criticising the private sector in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States y(OECS) for not having been sufficiently aggressive in seeking and developing projects that can be nurtured into profitable businesses.

Charles accused the sector of being too prone to believe it was not possible for it to proceed with any venture without government concessions or interventions.

"In the face of mounting budgetary deficits, a number of our countries have embarked on economic reforms to change the balance between the public and private sectors in economic activity," Dame Eugenia said. "Privatisation as it is now popularly known, is held up by many donors as a policy of universal applicability... I am not allergic to some degrees of flexibility, whereby the private sector holds larger equity stakes in a number of government owned assets. But our countries face special difficulties in addressing such a strategy," Dame Eugenia observed.

"The private sector, highly dependent on the state for subsidies and contracts, is one such constraint. Moreover, privatisation is not an end in itself. Ours is not a situation where the public sector is crowding the private sector out of investment opportunities," Charles told OECS private sector officials meeting here. "Divestment of government investment does not necessarily lead to economic expansion; it merely constitutes a change in ownership," she said. The private sector can channel its resources more efficiently into new investments that will lead to economic expansion and increased job opportunities, she argued.

"On the issue of wholesale privatisation, what I have said is not never, but rather, show me some compelling, economic, efficiency and viability reasons why our economies should consider divestiture of profitable enterprises, and then we can begin discussions," Charles said in outlining her government's position on divestment.

Private Sector Endorses LIAT Airlines Privatization

FL1903171593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1512 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 19, CANA—The Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC), the leading private sector body here, has endorsed plans to privatise the regional government-owned airline, LIAT.

DAIC president Denis Labassiere suggested at private sector economic conference that air and sea transportation managed by the business sector appeared to have the best chance of success.

"I regretted of course the demise of the regional shipping service. It died not because of a lack of demand, but because it was starved of sound management," Labassiere said. "I gather that there is much satisfaction across the region with the service provided by the private sector enterprise, Carifreight. The service should be supported as long as its quality enjoys the satisfaction of our manufacturers," the DAIC official remarked.

"In terms of LIAT, the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce wishes to publicly support the growing regional lobby for LIAT's privatisation. We feel however, that LIAT should remain Caribbean, but for the future, should seek a working relationship with a successful international carrier," Labassiere added.

Progress Reported on Caribbean Telecommmunications Fund

FL2003191993 Bridgetown CANA in English GMT 1701 20 Mar 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 20, CANA—The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is reporting progress on work leading up to the creation of a development fund to serve the Caribbean.

Secretary general of the Port-of-Spain-based CTU, Deoraj Ramnarine, met with a Caribbean development [words indistinct]. Ramnarine told CANA Friday the CTU will formally be approaching the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to fund the services of a consultant. Informal discussions on the matter have been held with the ITU's Barbados-based Caribbean representative, Phillip Cross.

The proposed Caribbean Telecommunications Development Fund was endorsed by the ITU, the international telecommunications body, at its hemispheric development conference in Acapulco, Mexico, a year ago following presentations by the CTU.

Under Resolution 5, the ITU agreed to support development projects covering a range of areas, including news networks, video services, national disaster communications, legal harmonisation, and the Caribbean Development Fund.

Ramnarine said an ITU-CTU forum in Trinidad and Tobago in the latter part of last year brought all the interested parties, including governments together to discuss how the fund would work as well as its benefits. This work was advanced during the meeting with the CDB when topics such as the rules related to the operation of the fund, potential sources of funding, who would

receive financing, and legal aspects, were discussed. Based on the discussions at the bank, where the fund would be located and administered, Ramnarine said a detailed request would now be submitted to the ITU with specifics on the consultancy being sought.

The hemispheric conference in Mexico agreed to aim for an average regional telephone penetration rate of 20 main lines per hundred citizens. On average, six persons out of every hundred have access to a telephone, although some countries have rates that are several times this figure.

Barbados

Union Reacts To Government Wage Freeze Proposal

FL2003181293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1619 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 20, CANA—The Clement Payne Labour Union [CPLU] on Saturday criticised a proposal by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford to have wages in the public and private sectors frozen. In a statement, the union said it "will not tolerate any attempt by government or private enterprise to restrict the hard-earned wages of all the workers, whether we represent them or not."

When he presented his 1993 budget in Parliament last Monday, Sandiford proposed the wage freeze for two years. Sandiford, who is also the finance minister, underscored the need for productivity levels to rise and for prices to be kept down.

The CPLU, the newest union here, said: "In reality, the worker's spending power has decreased about 35 percent since 1986, and to put more burdens on them shows a total lack of respect and understanding by the government of today." The union said it would "take all action that is necessary to ensure that the workers we represent are not made to suffer at the hands of this government."

Dominica

French Coast Guard Reportedly Fires on Fishermen

FL2003181693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1641 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 20, CANA—Dominica's police have asked the French authorities in Martinique for an explanation of an alleged incident in which a French Coast Guard vessel shot at a Dominican fisherman this week. Top police officials told CANA there was cause for concern when local fishermen involved in legitimate activity in their country's waters report being frightened off by French bullets directed at them.

Acting Deputy Police Commissioner Hansell Valerie said the police received a complaint from Roseau-based fisherman, Andrew Pierre, who said he was shot at by a French Coast Guard vessel, possibly the Martinique-based Francis Garnier.

Pierre was reported to have been fishing in Dominican waters south of the island in the Scotshead area, when he saw a French Coast Guard vessel approaching from the direction of Martinique. Police quote the fisherman as saying when the ship was about a mile away, its occupants opened fire on him.

A frightened Pierre reportedly cut his fishing line on which he had just hooked a large fish, in a hurried attempt to escape a hail of bullets. According to the police, a badly shaken Pierre approached the police marine unit last Monday, to report the incident.

Deputy Commissioner Valerie told CANA the French Customs and Navy officials in neighbouring Martinique were contacted about the matter and a response and explanation was awaited. Officials of the External Affairs Ministry have declined to comment on the incident.

The police said while this was the first time they have received an official complaint, they were aware of other reports which suggested that Dominican fishermen may have been shot at in the past by the French Coast Guard.

Haiti

U.S. Envoy Pezullo Arrives in Port-au-Prince

FL1903181093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] A turning point should occur this week in the Haitian crisis with the renewal of negotiations. The U.S. diplomat who is now working on the Haitian issue arrived on the afternoon of 18 March in Port-au-Prince aboard a special plane. Lawrence Pezullo made no statement at the airport. Pezzullo, who is carrying a message from the Clinton Administration, is to converse with Prime Minister Bazin, General Cedras, and the Army High Command. He may also meet with members of other sectors within the framework of his meetings on the crisis.

Lawrence Pezullo, who is in charge of the Haitian file in the State Department, is a career diplomat; he was former U.S. ambassador to Uruguay and to Nicaragua. He holds a degree in humanities from Columbia University.

President Clinton stated on 16 March, following his meeting with Father Aristide, that he was expecting Pezullo's mission in Haiti to be succesful. The U.S. President had urged the military authorities and the current government not to obstruct the proceedings aimed at returning democracy to Haiti and Father Aristide to his functions.

The message Pezullo brings to the military authorities will be clear, with no ambiguity, stated Bill Clinton. It should be noted that the content of Mr. Pezullo's message to the military authorities is still unknown. The U.S. Government special envoy on the Haitian file, Lawrence Pezullo, is due to spend the weekend in Port-au-Prince.

Father Antoine Expresses Optimism Over U.S. Involvement

FL1903182093 Port-au-Prince Tele-Haiti in French 1330 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The recent commitment by U.S. President Bill Clinton allows us to foresee a new era of negotiations—serious negotiations this time—which should end quickly in returning democracy to the country. This is at least the opinion expressed by the coordinator of the presidential commission formed by Aristide. Father Antoine referred to the meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Let us listen to Antoine Adrien over the microphone of Varrio Serran.

[Begin Adrien recording, in Creole] I think it is the first time that a decision shows a true willingness to resolve the crisis. What do I mean? For instance, the designation of Mr. Pezzulo [words indistinct]. I think the rapidity that has been displayed shows that it is not something [word indistinct]. I also believe there is an important event that I should not forget, that also happened yesterday [corrects himself], the day before yesterday, the same day President Clinton and President Aristide met. It is the Williams matter.

We heard that the soldier who was granted political asylum was going to be tried. Nevertheless, he was released despite all that the Army said. [passage indistinct] I believe this is a sign that when the United States wants to acvhieve a result, it can achieve it at all costs. This indicates that if it wants to resolve the crisis—as it is the Army that is responsible for the crisis—it can resolve it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Teachers Union, Government Sign 'Historic' Agreement

FL1903164393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1425 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, March 19, CANA—The St. Vincent Union of Teachers [SVUT] has signed its first collective agreement with the government, effectively ending almost two decades of struggle.

The agreement, referred to by both parties as historic, became effective Wednesday and runs for a two-year period. Although the agreement does not cover remuneration and pensions, union president Tyrone Burke said it was an important point from which the SVUT could continue to lobby for change.

"Its just a start... Now we have a framework (on) which we can continue to work for the improvements that we wanted and weren't able to get in the first collective agreement." The union, which won recognition as bargaining agent on behalf of some categories of teachers in [words indistinct], has waged a bitter protracted battle with successive administrations to obtain the right of collective bargaining.

The right to such status was among the demands of a 1975 strike by the union which resulted in widespread dismissals, transfers, and the jailing of some members who were arrested during a demonstration which was teargassed by the police. Members have also had to embark on various other forms of industrial action including pickets.

Burke said the agreement represented a milestone not only for the teachers, but for the entire trade union movement, and workers throughout the country.

It's the first time that government as an employer has signed a collective agreement with a trade union, Education Minister John Horne said. He hoped the signing of the agreement would send the right signals throughout the country, "Signals that include the importance of a sense of responsibility on all parties to any agreement."

Among those witnessing the signing ceremony was a former union president, Yvonne Francis-Gibson, now a junior minister in the Education Ministry, who was among those jailed during the November 1975 strike.

President Salinas Reaffirms Oil Policy

PA1903164293 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report by Francisco Trejo]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari headed a ceremony commemorating the 55th anniversary of the nationalization of the oil industry. Salinas reaffirmed that petroleum is a fundamental part of our country's development, therefore Mexican Petroleum, Pemex, will continue to be in Mexican hands for the benefit of the entire nation.

[Begin Salinas recording] Oil ownership and control will remain permanently in Mexican hands. [applause] The integrity of the oil industry has been preserved, as have productive unity and reserves for the national market. There will be no risk contracts, concessions for oil exploitation, guarantees of oil supply to anyone, or free trade of oil. There will be no foreign gas stations, and reserved areas will be managed exclusively by the state. [end recording]

Salinas stressed that Pemex plays a main role in our economy and defined it as a resource that places Mexico in an advantageous position in the international economy. He added that Pemex contributes with more than 30 percent of the foreign exchange that enters our country through exports. He also noted that investments to protect the ecology will be increased by 22 percent in 1993.

Salinas said the Mexican oil supply is guaranteed, as 65 billion barrels have been added to our reserves, which guarantees our oil capacity for the next 50 years.

Pemex Director Francisco Rojas said in his annual report that Mexico has a valuable energy source and a valuable financial instrument in its oil industry. He added that Pemex has focused its efforts and reorganization in that direction.

[Begin Rojas recording] Our petroleum is still ours 55 years after oil expropriation because it benefits the nation. Those who are against changes and those who insist on privatization of Pemex are defeated by a policy that strengthens the state's sovereignty and control over its hydrocarbons and at the same time promotes efficiency and competitiveness. [end recording]

Finance Secretariat Reports Economic Growth

PA1903162993 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report by Hector Ramos]

[Text] In 1992, the Mexican economy grew for the sixth consecutive year. According to official reports, economic growth in 1992 was 2.6 percent.

The report issued by the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat specified the behavior of the various economic sectors. Industrial activities grew 2.8 percent. General Services grew 3.1 percent. Agricultural and livestock activities showed a negative growth rate of 1.5 percent as a result of heavy rains and plagues. Private investments increased 20.4 percent, which made it possible to finance the import of goods and equipment to expand the productive system.

* Possible Government Role in Bishop Choice Seen

93CA0074B Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p 62

[Article by Saul Vazquez Granados]

[Text] At this moment the governments of Mexico and the Vatican are negotiating on the proposal that the appointment of bishops be cleared with the Interior Secretariat. This statement was made by Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, assistant coordinator of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] congressional delegation, at a forum attended by representatives of the Catholic hierarchy and leaders of the political parties.

Murmurs of disapproval—and also of amazement—at the PSD congressman's announcement were heard from those attending the forum. Even Cecilia Romero, PAN [National Action Party] secretary general, indicated her disagreement. Nevertheless, Rincon Gallardo commented that "time will prove me right in saying that the Mexican Government seeks to approve the new bishops that are appointed by the Pope."

The Forum on Church-State Relations—which was organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Tata Vasco Center—provided a framework for this revelation as well as for the reports by a source in the Mexican Archbishopric concerning the telephone call that Interior Secretary Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido made to Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada.

The same day on which cartoon caricatures were published in a Mexico City newspaper depicting Gonzalez Garrido under the title of "Jacobin" while Corripio and Jeronimo Prigione appeared as leaves blowing away in the wind, the interior secretary telephoned the offices of the cardinal primate of Mexico to convey his greetings to the cardinal. A source close to the Catholic Church official, however, commented that the government official's real purpose was to erase his anticlerical image.

This same source spoke of the criticism directed against Jeronimo Prigione, the papal representative, regarding his participation in the registration of the Catholic Church with the Interior Secretariat [SG]. He commented that the current diplomatic representative of the Vatican is eager to be a leading player.

The source disclosed that it was Prigione who arranged with the Vatican for the recommendation that he—

Prigione—go to the SG to register the Catholic Church, despite the fact that he had no legal authority to perform that function.

The source further disclosed that Cardinal Sodano, a high Vatican official, brought the recommendation to Prigione to carry out the registration two days after the Archbishopric of Mexico—acting through its legal representatives—had gone to the SG to request the registration. One cannot, therefore, say that Cardinal Corripio was guilty of insubordination, but rather that the diplomat wanted to appear to be the highest ecclesiastical authority in Mexico.

For his part, Father Manuel Olimon, professor at the Pontifical University, declared that it was not the Vatican's intention to register the Universal Catholic Church with the Interior Secretariat, but that a request from former secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios to the Holy See led to the order for Prigione to carry out the legal procedure.

As for Rincon Gallardo's statement regarding the coming intervention by the SG in the appointment of bishops, Olimon expressed the opinion that this could not be done, because it would mean that the Catholic Church would be giving up some of its freedom.

Father Olimon, however, acknowledged that this type of accord did exist between the Vatican and governments such as that of Spain and Colombia that enabled these governments to present lists of three names from which the Pope would in turn appoint the bishops.

Olimon explained that these accords are no longer being implemented, ever since Pope Paul VI ruled that the Catholic Church must not give up either its autonomy or its freedom in connection with the appointment of bishops.

In the opinion of the PRD's assistant congressional coordinator, however, what the Mexican Government is seeking is not to recommend bishops but to have the opportunity of expressing its agreement or disagreement with the proposed nomination of each candidate.

He cited the preferential treatment that the Mexican Government and the members of Congress had accorded Prigione to enable him to express his points of view before the new legislation that regulates state-Church relations was approved.

* Newly Created Human Rights Bodies Cited

93CA0074A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 11

[Article by Rosa Rojas]

[Text] Although, technically speaking, 20 state human rights commissions have a legal existence—acquired upon publication, in their respective state official gazettes, of the decrees that created them—the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH) has delivered to only eight of these state commissions the file on complaints it has received from its respective organs.

In the remaining cases, the files were not delivered either because the head of the state commission in question had not been appointed or because he or she had not taken office for lack of office facilities, CNDH sources indicated.

Article 102 of the Constitution, in its second transitory article, establishes: "Pending establishment of the organs for protection of human rights in the states, under the terms of the present decree the CNDH will be able to continue hearing the complaints that should properly be handled locally.

"Those states that already possess such organs will receive—within 30 calendar days from the date of publication of the corresponding decree in the federal government's DIARIO OFICIAL, or official gazette—those complaints that have previously been submitted to the CNDH and remain unresolved"

The CNDH has already delivered the respective files to the Office of the Attorney for Human Rights and Citizen Protection of Baja California (whose statute was published on 10 March 1991) and to the human rights commissions of Coahuila (17 July 1992), Colima (30 May 1992), Guerrero (25 September 1992), Hidalgo (30 June 1992), Morelos (22 July 1992), Nayarit (24 November 1990), and Tamaulipas (21 September 1992).

The other state commissions whose charters have already been published are: Campeche (1 January 1993), Chiapas (2 December 1992), Guanajuato (16 October 1992), Puebla (14 December 1992), Queretaro (24 December 1992), Quintana Roo (30 September 1992), San Luis Potosi (22 September 1992), Sinaloa (13 January 1993), Sonora (6 October 1992), Tabasco (6 January 1993), and Veracruz (26 September 1992).

In some states, legislation has been pushed at top speed in recent days to enact the constitutional reforms that will make it possible to create the state commissions on human rights, but these commissions will receive the files from the CNDH only when the reforms take effect upon publication in the respective official gazette.

Although the period of one year that was established—in the second passage of Article 102 of the Constitution—for the state congresses to create the state human rights commissions expired last Thursday 28 January, there is in fact no penalty for those congresses that fail to comply. Lawyers consulted on the subject say it is an "imperfect" regulation because it does not provide a penalty, adding the comment that the only penalty may well be a moral stricture.

Costa Rica

Occupiers Release Remaining Hostages, Prepare To Leave

PA2103125893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1037 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] San Jose, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The 13 days of anguish that 10 Nicaraguans experienced at their country's embassy in San Jose ended happily on 21 March when they were released by the kidnappers, who hope Costa Rican authorities will allow them to travel to other countries.

The release, which had been agreed upon on 19 March, was delayed one more day by the Nicaraguan Government's refusal to sign a document as part of the agreement reached with the five anti-Sandinist members of the so-called Yolaina Commando.

No details of the agreement have been revealed, except the assurance that the embassy occupiers can go to the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and perhaps a third country, according to the preferences of each.

The embassy occupation, which took place on 8 March and trapped 24 people inside, ended 21 March at 0040 (0640 GMT), when the remaining 10 hostages were released.

Now that the hostages have been released, the anti-Sandinists will stay alone at the embassy until they leave for their destinations at 1200 (1800 GMT).

After talking with the policemen on duty at the embassy, Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman reported on the time scheduled for the occupiers to leave.

Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, who in the past two weeks has spent many hours negotiating with the occupiers, said in San Jose: "Thank God, the problem has been settled by peaceful means."

Arriving at the security ministry with the 10 hostages released, including Ambassador Alfonso Robelo, Obando said: "This has been the work of many people."

A group of relatives and numerous journalists awaited the released hostages, whose faces revealed the tension and exhaustion of 13 days of captivity.

None of them, who shortly thereafter left for their homes, wanted to talk to the media. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan officials who negotiated the release refused to make any statements until the occupiers leave the country.

Fishman also refused to give the exact amount of the ransom paid by the Nicaraguan Government to the head of the group, former contra Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. He said his government has done its part by obtaining the release of the hostages "safe and sound."

The embassy occupier had initially asked for $6 million, but media sources maintain that he received only between $250,000 and $500,000.

The minister added that in the negotiations, the Costa Rican Government pledged to guarantee the safety of the commando group members.

Shortly after the hostages were released, Urbina Lara's girlfriend Cecilia Salas entered the embassy, accompanied by an unidentified brother and sister of Urbina Lara.

Urbina Lara, and apparently Guillermo Arcenio Oporta Reyes, another member of the commando group whose country of asylum had not yet been announced, will travel to the Dominican Republic.

The other three occupiers will be taken by helicopter to some undisclosed location in Nicaragua that will be revealed to the pilot only when he is already in the air.

According to a communique read by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais in San Jose, the Nicaraguan Government gave the Costa Rican Government permission for a Soviet-made Mi-17 helicopter, a donation from the Sandinist Army early last year, to "fly over, land, and take off" from Nicaraguan territory.

Pallais came to San Jose to negotiate with the embassy occupiers along with Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta.

The two Nicaraguan ministers and Obando y Bravo told ACAN-EFE that they will leave for Nicaragua on a private flight before noon.

According to official Nicaraguan sources, the commando group did not achieve any of its political demands, which consisted of the dismissal of Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and Army Commander in Chief Humberto Ortega, both of whom have been harshly criticized by the Nicaraguan opposition, and the trial of two high-ranking Sandinist military officers.

Urbina Lara Denies Kidnappers Going To Venezuela

PA2003180293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The Crisis Commission appointed by the Costa Rican Government, Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, and Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais is still meeting at the office of Luis Fishman, Costa Rican government and public security minister. Also present at the meeting is Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. As we reported earlier, and we now wish to stress this, kidnapper Urbina Lara has reportedly denied that they are going to Venezuela. Government Minister Mendieta has reported that the kidnappers' destination has been decided, but he did not wish to disclose the name of the country. Mendieta said that once the hostages are released, the country will be disclosed. We do want to inform you that there are

rumors that the kidnappers could be going to Mexico or Colombia. This has not been officially confirmed, but that is what we are hearing in the corridors of the Public Security Ministry.

Embassy Occupiers Fly to Nicaragua, Dominican Republic

PA2203141593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] San Jose—Costa Rican authorities have reported that four of the occupiers of the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose flew to Nicaragua on 21 March after releasing the remaining hostages. At the last minute, one them changed his mind about going to the Dominican Republic. Jose Manuel Urbina Lara is waiting at the airport in San Jose to board a flight to the Dominican Republic, which agreed to give him asylum.

Official sources had previously reported that only three of the occupiers had boarded the helicopter that flew them to an unspecified place in Nicaragua. At the last minute, one member of the commando, Guillermo Porta, decided not to accompany Urbina, as scheduled. Apparently, the four occupiers in the helicopter are still armed, although it had been agreed that they should leave their rifles at the airport.

El Salvador

Legislature Approves General Amnesty Law

PA2103002593 Paris AFP in Spanish 2347 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (AFP)—It was officially reported that the Salvadoran Congress on 20 March approved a general amnesty law to favor political and military leaders involved in grave human rights violations.

The approval, voted by the conservative parties, was obtained amid vigorous protests by members of popular organizations inside and outside Congress. They were expressing their opposition to the amnesty.

Radio Cadena Notes Approval

PA2103043093 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0405 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The Salvadoran Legislative Assembly on 20 March approved an Amnesty Law for the political murders and human rights violations perpetrated during the civil war, which were denounced six days ago in the Truth Commission report.

The law was approved with the support of only the National Conciliation Party, which presented the bill, the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, and the Authentic Christian Movement.

The parliamentary session was interrupted for two hours during the deputies' discussion of the law because members of popular organizations broke into the Assembly and shouted slogans against the amnesty.

Assembly Vice President Ruben Zamora, a member of the Democratic Convergence, regretted the hasty manner in which the law was approved and added that it opens the doors for the government to escape fulfillment of the Truth Commission's recommendations.

More Details on Amnesty Law Approval

PA2103020993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0052 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Legislative Assembly on 20 March approved an Amnesty Law for the political murders and human rights violations perpetrated during the civil war, which were denounced six days ago in the Truth Commission report. The law was approved with the support of only the right-wing parties, the National Conciliation Party (PCN), which presented the bill, the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), and the Authentic Christian Movement (MAC).

The parliamentary session was interrupted for two hours during the deputies' discussion of the law because members of popular organizations broke into the Assembly and shouted slogans against the amnesty.

Assembly Vice President Ruben Zamora, a member of the Democratic Convergence (CD, moderate left), regretted the "hasty manner" in which the law was approved and added that it "opens the doors for the government to escape fulfillment of the Truth Commission's recommendations."

The amnesty, which had been requested repeatedly by President Alfredo Cristiani, was approved by 47 votes for, 13 abstentions, and nine votes against.

The new law will prevent the prosecution of individuals responsible for political crimes during the Salvadoran civil war (1980-92), including members of the Military High Command and guerrilla leaders accused of such crimes by the Truth Commission in the report it released on 15 March at the United Nations.

The amnesty was not supported by the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the foremost opposition party, or the CD; these parties spoke out in defense of the need to enforce justice before forgiving crimes.

The law also grants "broad, absolute, and unconditional amnesty to anyone who in any way participated in the perpetration of political, common, or related crimes perpetrated prior to 1 January 1992." The law calls for the release of all individuals sentenced for political crimes and acquits those people against whom arrest

warrants have been issued on the same charges. Furthermore, it explains that those who "participated in kidnappings and extortion," in which mostly guerrillas and some death squads were involved, will not benefit from this law.

The supporters of left-wing groups who interrupted the parliament session shouted "Justice, yes; amnesty, no!" and "Justice, justice, justice!" The approximately 200 demonstrators who occupied the upper part of the Blue Hall of the Parliament booed the deputies when Assembly President Roberto Angulo announced that the session was being suspended due to the disorder.

According to Ruben Zamora, the government will have to pay huge political costs for approving the amnesty, because "eight or 10 countries and Amnesty International" had requested that the amnesty bill not be sanctioned. The CD leader added that Cristiani's government "will be isolated" from the international community.

The drafting of the amnesty bill started as soon as the report from the Truth Commission was publicized. That organization, which was created by the peace agreements signed in 1992 and formed by three international personalities, delivered to the United Nations on 15 March the result of its investigation into human rights violations committed during the Salvadoran civil war, which left over 75,000 dead and 7,000 missing. The Commission recommended the dismissal of high-ranking military officers, including Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce who has already resigned, and the removal of the 14 magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice.

It also advised that several leaders of the former guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, which now is a political party, should not hold public offices, at least, over the next decade.

Villalobos Comments on Truth Commission Report

PA2003022593 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1341 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Interview with Joaquin Villalobos, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning Joaquin.

[Villalobos] Good morning. Thanks for inviting me.

[Reporter] My first question is this. Do you think it was a mistake to have executed mayors during the conflict?

[Villalobos] We must consider this during two different periods. One thing is what happened in the past, and quite another is what we see now. For this reason, it is very difficult to make an assessment. While the Truth Commission was meeting—I could not say investigating because there was no investigation as far as I can tell—we gave the commission all the details explaining why we did what we did. Let's try to assess the conflict objectively. For instance, the territorial expansion, in which the People's Revolutionary Army [ERP] played an important role, was due to a large extent to the fact that the battle between insurgents and counterinsurgency forces, in the middle of which were the mayors, was won on such territory. The transfer of lands might not have had the importance it now has had the battle not been won.

Upon examining such events in this new light and considering the characteristics that marked the end, the Commission had to express an opinion, which of course could not be based on our justifications, explanations, or a political and military analysis of the war. At this time, we accept the Commission's opinion that such executions were negative and a mistake. But should we find ourselves in the same circumstances that existed at that time, maybe we would do the same again because we were at war. I separate military actions from morals because our moral stand at the time was against staging a dirty war. In other words, mistaken or not, these actions were based on an ethical principle: not concealing them.

[Reporter] Did other FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] organizations offer resistance to executing mayors?

[Villalobos] No. We have been blamed for the deaths of 11 of the 26 mayors killed and whose cases are known by the Commission. We did not have anything to do with the deaths of the remaining 15.

[Reporter] Why do the Truth Commission members who prepared the report point to only one organization?

[Villalobos] I don't know.

[Reporter] We will come back to this subject later. One item about which we have been wondering over and over again, and which is related to the previous question is this: Why do you think the report does not focus attention on who masterminded the deaths of civilians, such as Guerrero, Tecorines, and many others, at the hands of FMLN?

[Villalobos] I don't know why, either. I have told the media that the report is untrue. On the one hand, the Truth Commission says clearly that it was the death squads, but I think the commission either could not or did not want to give us the information it obtained. I think the commission does have this information. On the other hand, the right wing accuses the FMLN of a number of actions that were never clarified. In my opinion the FMLN and particularly the ERP have demanded honesty in the case of Herbert Anaya. We are willing to pursue that case until it is excluded from the amnesty, for example, so that an investigation can be conducted and we can get to the bottom of it with an investigation on all the members of the ERP. We would agree to have our command structures that were based in

San Salvador render testimony to resolve the crime and clearly establish that the ERP was not in any way involved.

I believe that if we all did the same regarding the dark events attributed to us by the right wing and if we were willing to subject ourselves to profound investigations in cases such as the (?Rodriguez Porth) case and others, we could prove whether or not the ERP was involved and establish who was responsible. That would be ideal. The problem is that the Commission has not explained whether or not these cases were discussed; therefore, the doubt remains and the issue has become one of the report's weak spots.

[Reporter] I consulted with several analysts and after reviewing the report, I have come away with the impression—due to the comments of both right-wing and left-wing analysts—that the report was not written only by the three commissioners; that political interests were involved. Do you believe someone else had a hand in writing the Truth Commission report?

[Villalobos] I have pointed out that I look at the report from two angles. The ethical angle because we signed the agreement, we gave birth to the commission, we gave it attributes and said we would accept its resolutions. The other angle is analytical because one cannot play dumb. It would be naive to say the Commission [words indistinct] with the report when, in reality, the report—not because it incriminated me but because it is quite evident that it has infrastructural and narrative problems—is even incoherent at times and even failed to consider the country's legitimacy upon issuing its recommendations. While we were still at war and negotiating that could be done, but in this new situation, within the context of a cease-fire, its recommendations had to consider those elements.

[Reporter] The ethical-political part of the report will crumble if it is incoherent, if there is a consensus and there are different forces saying it is deficient. If this happens the recommendations will not make ethical-political sense.

[Villalobos] No. I believe the fact that the recommendations are insufficient, the fact that the state is the biggest human rights violator, cannot cease to be important. It is a strong and important judgment that points to the judicial system and Armed Forces as leading components, but it is insufficient and herein lies the most decisive issue: Why did the report not mention the death squads at all? It pointed out that there was a political movement of some sort and I do not believe that it was due to a lack of information that they decided that it would be disadvantageous to include that subject. To some extent I believe that issue influenced the Commission's decision to offset the blow to the Armed Forces with a blow or some punishment to the FMLN. Why was the FMLN chosen? That is a political, not an ethical or legal, issue as in the case of the mayors. The Commission's arguments are totally weak regardless of whether or not we accept them.

[Reporter] What is the ERP position and your position, specifically, as to why the Commission did not conduct a profound investigation of the people who financed the death squads? This has created expectation and even General Blandon has examined the issue. What is the ERP leadership's position on this issue?

[Villalobos] I believe that perhaps the Commission felt that such an investigation would create complications of a much broader scope, for which society had prepared. I believe everyone expected that on 12 and 13 March the country would be in a state of upheaval. I felt that amnesty with the characteristics stated in the report would have to be decreed within 48 hours or as soon as possible to avoid destabilization. However, the amnesty issue is a problem for the Armed Forces, which are now alone in this matter. I believe the Armed Forces made a number of mistakes that were highly visible because they were used as a means to an end. I believe that civilian rightists and businessmen financed the death squads. I also believe that people abroad are responsible; the United States for example, is responsible. The Commission states this only as a side note. We have the case of the family of Claudio Armijo, who is missing, and a former U.S. administration is involved: the Reagan administration.

I am not talking about this administration or the Bush administration, which are not responsible, but about previous administrations that are responsible. Now, to conclude simply that Colonel Domingo Rosa was responsible for the Mozote case is very general. The problem is that they should have asked certain questions, such as: Who trained the battalion? Why were they trained in land-striping policy? What implications did this have? As you can see, there are many missing pieces in this puzzle.

[Reporter] It has been pointed out in the Mozote case that there are two absent figures. These two important figures are: the United States and the Reagan administration, and the civilians who funded the death squads. There should be a third figure in the Mozote case: the Christian Democratic Party, which was in office at the time and covered up the largest number of massacres and bombings. The common citizen would say the Nationalist Republican Alliance signed the peace agreement and the Christian Democrats waged the war. Despite this, the Christian Democratic Party is not mentioned.

[Villalobos] I think there is something here that relates to an issue that I brought up during the reconciliation forum some weeks ago. It is incredible that after 11 years of war, so few have been found responsible for the whole thing. That is why I said all sides have to ask for forgiveness, as all must have sinned at some time. I mean, how can the Armed Forces be innocent if it had

been in the war. It has been very difficult for the Army to understand that, by virtue of what they considered to be their duty and with all their constitutional and political arguments, in the end it turns out they did nothing [sentence as heard]. That is absurd. They participated in the war. If there were several governments, then all of them—including the Christian Democrats—had to be implicated in the war, in one way or another. This means everyone is a sinner in various degrees, and it was important for the commission to recognize and state this fact. I feel it is true that the Christian Democrats are guilty of complicity for their alliance with the Army, if not for direct participation. That is not in the report either.

[Reporter] On another issue regarding the Truth Commission report, you stated in an interview with Channel 12 that what the ERP is experiencing, after the attack against its leadership, is a reaction to the new leftist ideas the ERP has presented. What reactions?

[Villalobos] This occurred while we were discussing the report and looking for explanations. At first we thought it was part of U.S. policy to limit certain changes for the new left wing, for which we were working. We then realized there were no negative signs from this or the past administration. Actually we had positive signs about the changes we were making. We believe that ever since our party presented its political position, there has been a struggle to bring about the political death of the ERP. I think I should make this totally clear. There are sectors within the left wing that are happy about this part of the report. Some people have said this eliminates a political adversary. It all seems to be a return of the ideological struggles of the 1970's, but in civilian life.

[Reporter] This would not be a physical death, but a political death?

[Villalobos] That is right, and it is this context of events within the left wing that affected the final decision. The December negotiations, the missile destruction, the unease of certain UN sectors about the whole matter, and a conglomeration of other things affected the final selection process to balance political forces. We accepted the agreement and the resolution. We cannot be taken for fools by saying: We accept this and what is more, we are also going to join the party. No sir, we are intelligent enough to reason and debate. It is one thing to be a main figure in a situation that could produce an important change for the country, and quite another to be the scapegoat who, on top of that, will even have his honor tarnished in the process. We will not accept this.

[Reporter] A few minutes ago, Presidency Minister Santamaria said the report that we saw indicates that the FMLN General Command is named as being responsible for the actions against the mayors and others. Now, Santamaria says [words indistinct] it is surprising why only one force is named. My question is....[pauses] talking about the ethical-political part, the other FMLN leaders know if they participated in the incidents. Regardless of whether the Truth Commission plans it or not, as in the murder cases of the mayors and others, do you think that it is somewhat unethical that the other FMLN leaders have not spoken out, assuming their responsibility?

[Villalobos] I think they would have to be questioned on why they have not assumed their responsibility. I go over in my mind how we have had to act, on what we have had to do....

[Reporter, interrupting] If it had been the other way around, how would the ERP react? For example, if a specific leader had been accused of being responsible for murders that took place in the city or of a criminal act, how would they react?

[Villalobos] I believe we gave the FMLN solid proof of our ethical position. We could have said, no we do not accept the accusations. We could have been the first stumbling block of fulfillment of the recommendations. Nevertheless, the same night the report was made public, we accepted the recommendations. Even though this practically implies the total dismantling of our organization's leadership, we said: We accept. It can be assumed that had the case been reversed, we would have spoken up immediately to support those accused.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] can also shed some light on the reason for the silence on the part of the other FMLN leaders. I insist on this because many people are asking about it. It is all too clear that since the peace agreements were signed, the ERP and the National Resistance Party have maintained different positions from the other forces that make up the FMLN. The document, "Democratic Socialism, a Revolution to the Left," is not the belief of... [pauses] logically, it is not the belief upheld by the FMLN's majority. It is different, practically contrary to what other leaders have expressed.

For example, the slogan of the Communist Party was: We are communists and we will remain communists. Leaders of the People's Liberation Forces do not share the ideas expressed in the document you wrote, in fact, they have attacked them.

It is no secret there is a campaign regarding El Espino Farm. There are posters on the streets of San Salvador to this regard. According to this campaign, the people responsible for the destruction of El Espino Farm are [words indistinct] and other wolves. It is evident that this attack has a target. There is a magazine that identifies itself as the mouthpiece of the FMLN, which has a cartoon showing Joaquin Villalobos crushing El Espino Farm. There is an FMLN campaign against the ERP. If common ideas no longer exist and if the ERP is being attacked by the FMLN, what is the ERP doing in the FMLN?

[Villalobos] We have a democratic conception. We have the capability of tolerating other forces. I think it is evident there is a campaign against us, which is not only national, but worldwide. We must not forget the FMLN

is a point of reference for the left throughout the world. In spite of the fact our country is small, our process has been so complex it has caught the attention of many forces throughout the world, especially those of the left. Because of this, the discrediting campaign has had an effect throughout the world. I was in Europe a short time ago and this is what I was told in those countries. I have received similar reports from U.S. cities. It is evident that we have not waged a campaign against anyone. All we have done is propose a democratic kind of socialism. We have defended a position that calls for strengthening a new economic agent. This led us to the position that we had to negotiate in the El Espino Farm case.

This is a time of heated political passions. We believe these passions will diminish because we are already witnessing some solutions. There is the agreement forum. We said at the beginning we had to negotiate while making our confrontational capabilities known, while telling the other side: We will not engage in a confrontation in exchange for this or that. At the end, this is what was done. We think this is fine. The thesis on the new economic agent is also functioning and this is what is important. Changes are taking place. Changes bring hurdles. We do not mind facing those hurdles. What is important is to make changes. We are not going to make the serious error of reacting to the intolerance our proposals have produced among people who find it difficult to make changes. We have known about this hurdle throughout the war. It is difficult to make changes, but eventually adjustments are made. All it takes is patience. What is important now is to have the capability to make sound proposals. That is, the most revolutionary capability that can be demonstrated during this phase is not the capability to protest, but the capability to make sound proposals.

We think eventually this will be understood by revolutionaries who have charisma, but are currently confused and believe this has been a change that has placed us on the other side. I think that in the long term, life will demonstrate this is not how it is. I am not saying our positions are perfect. I do not remember if it was you or Walter who was at a news conference on my book. I have considered observations that have been made regarding democratization and the market. I have read some 20 critical commentaries on the book I wrote. They represent new elements and criticism that I accept, but I cannot accept allegations that my ideas are neoliberal. I think that is somewhat absurd.

[Reporter] Regarding the ERP thesis, Joaquin, it is a known fact it has generated controversies in the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party-ERP. How is the ERP affected by the Truth Commission report? Some ERP militants have called us saying they have been left without leaders.

[Villalobos] I would reiterate what I said earlier. Changes evoke reactions. This is the way it has always been. This is a risk that must be faced. There is the risk of fading away, of making mistakes. I remember someone stated that only those who do nothing, do not make mistakes. People who do nothing never make mistakes, but they never go anywhere. This popular philosophy applies here. The situation has obviously had an inner impact. We have not resolved the situation of all the FMLN structures. We must be careful about this. It would be a mistake to say we have monolithic unity. If an organization says it has monolithic unity, it is because it has a Stalinist current.

During this phase it should be expected, it is logical, it is natural, to have differences. It is difficult to have development where differences exist, and not necessarily because of a Stalinist trend, but because we would be speaking of very commonplace organizations. These organizations lack the dynamics to grow, to develop, and to have the ability to make proposals.

We have tolerated each other. In other organizations there have been splits because the people who formed them were unable to tolerate each other and they broke apart. There is the case of the Nationalist Democratic Union, for example.

We are not confronting out internal situation this way. If we had done so earlier, perhaps our organization would be more stable by now. We have accepted the fact that the transition period would bring an intense internal debate, that a certain degree of tolerance would be necessary and that some changes would take place. The fact we accepted this is what has brought us to this moment. Gradually we are producing a more important unity, one based on a new strategy.

Our organization has had, throughout its history, several kickoff moments. When a certain stand has ceased to be valid, it has become necessary to move forward with a new stance.

At this moment we are, I believe, about to overcome the crisis involving the reprogramming we have had to implement and the adjustments we have had to make. I think we are already very enthusiastic about the adjustments we are making in an atmosphere in which people do not feel pressured into thinking alike and into obeying every idea of the leaders. I think this is a new and very positive experience.

[Reporter] What would be the future, not of the ERP leadership, but of the leadership whose turn it would be? They would be the only ones who would heed the Truth Commission's recommendations. [Words indistinct] The Supreme Court of Justice will not do it and it is the military's turn to go. It would be the six ERP leaders that I have mentioned who would take up the struggle for something better in 10 years from now.

[Villalobos] Things are not that way. We have said that we are willing to listen, provided the other side also heeds fully.

[Reporter] What do you mean, provided they also heed?

[Villalobos] Every one of the recommendations. We will not make our stand as far as satisfying those who only want to see the political death of a tendency. If others heed every one of the recommendations, so will we. But something else must be taken into consideration. We will heed the recommendations provided society in general accepts the measure as valid. We will not comply while everyone else continues to say no. I keep saying the measure goes against the agreements. It is absurd and ridiculous.

[Reporter] Minister Santamaria said one of the reasons why the FMLN signed was for political participation. In the end, however, the Truth Commission denied this opportunity to a tendency.

[Villalobos] I will discuss this from a viewpoint different from our own. I would say it was fortunate that we were denied this opportunity. Our current of thought has sought other outlets, not only in politics, with which FMLN plans to carry out a long-term political project. Let me give an example. Let us suppose that a soldier from the Armed Forces is going to be purged and that this soldier, for political and ideological reasons, violated human rights; maybe it was out of fanaticism or because the Constitution ordered him to do so. Let us suppose that he now wants to enter the political arena because he thinks he was right at the time and now wants to fight for those convictions politically. What would it mean to tell this man he cannot be a candidate? The message for him would be to create death squads because this is the way he thinks things are corrected. This would be absurd. This has nothing to do with the country's stabilization and reconciliation process. The idea seems to be to get everyone involved.

May I mention an important piece of evidence. I remember our last talk with Father Ellacuria, where he dared to say two things, that D'Aubuisson had changed and that it was possible to sign peace with President Cristiani. The FMLN reacted strongly to these two assertions. I remember that D'Aubuisson's trial had a starting point, his political participation. Now we know beyond a doubt who D'Aubuisson was. Now we have many more references about him. He took Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez prisoner or rather kidnapped her. Political participation changes in man. This was important. The Spanish Government, despite their problems with the ETA, maintain a political integration policy, despite the volume of ETA activities. Telling a certain faction that it cannot participate in politics sounds inconsistent and opposes a pacification agreement because it is supposed that the origin of the struggle is the absence of political space and the need for democratization. We keep saying this sounds absurd.

We gave birth to this Commission, so to speak. That is to say, this Commission sprang from the agreements and, therefore, we respect its resolution, but we cannot be fools just to be critical. This would be illogical.

[Reporter] What will happen in the coming weeks after this truth is made known? What would the other forces do, keep discussing the report, reject it, or, as an analyst put it, accept that truth can be revealed?

[Villalobos] I agree heartily. More truth is needed. We should accept whatever positive things the report has yielded. As I have said, it is extremely important that the Commission learned that the state is the greatest human rights violator. The fact that the commission said D'Aubuisson masterminded Msgr. Romero's assassination is important. But this is a partial truth. And yet we can learn from this that it is possible to learn truth and that all of us should tell the truth. This is important for reconciliation in the country.

FMLN Leader on Truth Commission Report, Amnesty

PA1903232493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 March 93

[Text] Maria Valladares de Sosa, alias Nidia Diaz, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has criticized the position of Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, Supreme Court president, who refused to resign from his post despite the Truth Commission's recommendations. Nidia Diaz said Gutierrez' decision not to resign is wrong and does not conform to the spirit of the peace agreement.

According to the FMLN leader, all the court members should resign because only then can real measures be taken to improve the administration of justice.

[Begin Diaz recording] The Supreme Court president's attitude should contribute to fulfillment of the recommendations. One of the most sensible recommendations to ensure compliance of justice is the resignation of all Supreme Court members. The Truth Commissior says it is not making definite judicial recommendations, because it hopes reforms are made and recommendations are implemented first. [end recording]

Diaz said it would be premature to talk about issuing an amnesty law at this time. The FMLN leader said it is necessary that the recommendations made by the Truth Commission be carried out before a pardon can be considered.

[Begin Diaz recording] We believe the commission's recommendations should be implemented before an amnesty law is issued. The victims are the ones who must decide if a pardon should be granted. They should see to it that truth prevails and that recommendations are put to the test. Right now the government cannot agree to an amnesty law, without waiting for the situation to evolve and for the recommendations to be implemented. The government must commit itself to fulfillment of the recommendations and any person who is affected must be willing to comply with the recommendations before an amnesty can be considered. [end recording]

The FMLN leader said noncompliance with the report's recommendations could bring the peace process to a standstill and warned that international aid would decrease.

Leader Says FMLN Willing To Fulfill Recommendations

PA2003014893 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report by Dagoberto Corea]

[Text] Leonel Gonzalez, a leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] political party, said on 19 March that if the government of President Alfredo Cristiani complies with the purging of 15 Armed Forces officers incriminated in the Ad Hoc Commission report, the FMLN would proceed to destroy 22 antiaircraft missiles that are in UN custody.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We have informed the UN, in response to rumors to the effect that the 15 officers will be totally purged from the Armed Forces, that it must confirm if, in fact, these 15 officers have been dismissed. We established the condition that the missiles would be destroyed if the purge was fulfilled. If this is verified we would have no difficulty in destroying the remaining missiles. There are approximately 22 missiles in UN custody that would have to be destroyed by the FMLN. [end recording]

One of the recommendations made by the Truth Commission calls for the resignation of the Supreme Court chief justice, who says he will not leave his post until June 1994. Leonel Gonzalez described this attitude as irresponsible and indifferent of the report's recommendations.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We are concerned over the remarks by the Supreme Court chief justice. His is an absurd decision that reveals no desire for reconciliation; he is disregarding the recommendations. Therefore, the FMLN believes that it is not enough to express willingness but to adopt measures. I believe this is what is being discussed by the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] and the Legislative Assembly. [end recording]

Gonzalez pointed out that President Cristiani has pledged to implement the recommendations of the Truth Commission, adding that the FMLN must likewise fulfill those recommendations. Gonzalez said the solution of these problems requires political resolve.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The fulfillment of all the recommendations made by the Truth Commission regarding the judicial system is very important to the FMLN. We believe that if there is political resolve on the part of the Nationalist Republican Alliance government and the court, it will be possible to find solutions. The Truth Commission has requested and recommended that the justices and the chief justice resign. I believe we can establish the legal mechanisms through which to accomplish this, thereby fostering the consolidation of the peace process.

Upon reading the Truth Commission report, I saw that violence was prompted in part by a lack of justice because the judicial system's judges and mechanisms hindered investigations, the implementation of measures and punishment. This mechanism, this judicial system, cannot fulfill the functions of this reconciliation process. Therefore, the Truth Commission has requested their resignation and the FMLN believes that with political resolve we can find the mechanisms through which to fulfill these recommendations. [end recording]

To [words indistinct] it would be best to achieve a consensus, Gonzalez said, adding that the FMLN will seek the Salvadoran people's forgiveness.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The FMLN has said that it will fulfill its part of the recommendations. The FMLN National Council, our top authority, will hold a convention to discuss the initiative whereby we will ask the nation to forgive us for all the mistakes the FMLN has made. I believe this might establish the guidelines through which we could begin to find ways to implement the judicial system reforms as well as to deal with disqualifications. To this end, the position of my comrades, the positions of Comrade Joaquin Villalobos and Jonas [not further identified] seem to have caused a positive result because they have said that FMLN members are not struggling to be president, deputies, or mayors. They are struggling to change and transform this country. [end recording]

To conclude, Gonzalez said that amnesty for the individuals incriminated in the Truth Commission report must be based on the adoption of specific measures, which could include designing a schedule for the gradual fulfillment of the recommendations stated in the Truth Commission report. Thus, democracy would be consolidated with social justice and presided over by a judicial branch capable of guaranteeing individual rather than partisan rights.

Nicaragua

Occupiers Reportedly Agree To Release Hostages 20 Mar

PA2003012793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0040 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Report by Jorge Arias, Monumental Radio reporter, in Costa Rica—live]

[Text] Good evening, Nicaraguan friends. I am reporting from Monumental Radio of Costa Rica to announce the latest details regarding the talks on 19 March, which proposed the release of the hostages who, as you know, have been held at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica.

The talks have reached a very favorable point for both sides. According to Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman, the talks have had a happy ending. On 20 March, allegedly, the details for the release of the hostages will be finalized. In Costa Rica, however, we believe the negotiations have been completed and the Costa Rican Government is simply trying to distract the media. It is our assumption the kidnappers will depart the country late on 19 March or early on 20 March. This summarizes the events of 19 March in Costa Rica.

I repeat the talks have had a happy ending under the mediation of Monsignor Obando y Bravo, the Nicaraguan ministers, and the Costa Rican representatives. Here at Monumental Radio we believe the hostages might be released late on 19 March or early on 20 March. Reporters have thronged to areas near the Nicaraguan Embassy in an effort to announce this information.

Mendieta Says Urbina Pledged To Release Hostages

PA2003174893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1656 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Interview with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta by unidentified reporters in San Jose on 20 March—recorded]

[Text] [Mendieta] The agreements will be made public. His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo will read them. We do not need to sign anything. A government cannot sign anything under these conditions because we are dealing with a kidnapping.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] release the hostages?

[Mendieta] As soon as this ends, we will leave the country. We will provide information to the news media before departing. It could be tonight or early on 20 March

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the hostages?

[Mendieta] All the hostages.

[Reporter] Before leaving for the airport, [words indistinct]? Will [word indistinct] at the airport?

[Mendieta] The hostages will be released in a few hours. We have made progress in that respect. Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, head of the group occupying the Nicaraguan Embassy, pledged to release the hostages. Some prominent figures will accompany Urbina Lara to the airport.

Government Signs Agreement, Pays Ransom for Hostages

PA2203141993 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] A report datelined San Jose, Costa Rica, states that according to the anti-Sandinist commando that occupied the Nicaraguan Embassy, the Nicaraguan Government has paid them a ransom of $250,000 for the release of the hostages they took on 8 March when they occupied the embassy.

According to a document signed by the Nicaraguan authorities, which was made public on 21 March by the five occupiers, in addition to the ransom, the Nicaraguan Government has pledged to release four Nicaraguans who occupied Radio Mundial on 10 March to read a communique supporting the commando. The five-point agreement states that Costa Rica and Nicaragua pledge to mediate with the country where commando leader Jose Manuel Urbina will seek asylum, so he can enter the country with the necessary guarantees.

The document acknowledges Urbina's right to file a human rights violation complaint to the pertinent commissions in Nicaragua, while the Nicaraguan Government has pledged to seek $6 million from friendly countries to help the people affected by the war.

Government Minister Explains Embassy Conflict Solution

PA2103234593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2150 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Statements by Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta Artola to journalists upon his arrival at the International Airport in Managua on 21 March—recorded]

[Text] Good afternoon, and thank you for coming. I would like to briefly point out that this has been a day that has left us greatly satisfied because we have been able to resolve a conflict that emerged under adverse conditions for us because we were following closely the instructions given to us by the government, especially by our president. Our goal was to rescue the hostages safe and sound, without giving in to the political demands they wanted to impose by means of the takeover of an embassy in a disarmed country such as Costa Rica, an action committed by criminals.

It is very important to point out that we experienced difficult times, especially due to the nature of the people with whom we were dealing. We were dealing with a man, Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, found guilty of committing crimes in Costa Rica and with a trial pending for aggravated assault. Urbina had defended one of his accomplices, Erwin Garcia Garcia, who was captured by Costa Rican authorities with 1 kg of cocaine. Urbina not only defended him, but became his guarantor. The other embassy occupier was Mr. Guillermo Arsenio Oporta Reyes, who has cases pending with the authorities here in Nicaragua. We were dealing with criminals who at all times demonstrated that their only intention was to negotiate economic benefits and they were uninterested in political demands. They played around with political matters to obtain economic benefits.

The first meeting was tense. It was a truly difficult meeting. We were dealing with an aggressive, bold man, who never looked us in the eye. During the first meeting, he always spoke while looking at the cardinal even though he was referring to me. He was totally and absolutely incoherent. He did not repeat his earlier demands. He simply went through them very quickly. We stated categorically we were not about to negotiate any political demands and we quickly went on to the comptroller issue. He insisted on the comptroller issue. We categorically closed off that possibility. He also absurdly proposed that President Chamorro send a group of three representatives, including the comptroller. He was simply trying to link his objectives to politics.

We ruled out those possibilities at all times. During the first day we spoke about these topics for about three hours. When we reached the sixth point, after ruling out the possibility of providing the aid he was requesting for what he called social work, I told him that I preferred to discuss the sixth point the following day because we had not reached agreement on some fundamental issues—he had been demanding the release of hostages in Nicaragua and another series of things. It really was like hitting a parrot with a hat. The man immediately answered that it was a topic that could not be postponed, that he had decreased his demands, and that he was no longer asking for millions of dollars for the cardinal.

The following day we met with them once again. They had adopted an absolutely incoherent attitude. I would like to tell you about an interesting anecdote that happened to my dear friend Dr. Pallais.

The embassy occupier said Deputy Government Minister Jose Pallais should be less tense and complained that Dr. Pallais had called him a coward. He said Pallais should not come to the embassy with that kind of attitude. When we entered, he rudely told Dr. Pallais that he was the one giving the orders there and that he had everything under control and that if Dr. Pallais raised his voice, he was going to kick him out. My dear Dr. Pallais told him that if he were a real man, he would agree to step outside in the street and resolve the problem man to man. Of course Urbina paled and that is where the conflict ended. That is what happened.

If it were not for the tragic nature of the embassy situation in Costa Rica, which involved two countries and 25 hostages, it would have definitely been a comedy from all points of view. They are definitely cheap criminals and the government position was well understood in Costa Rica by the people and their government. We definitely did not make a single political concession.

That is everything for now. We have to report to President Violeta Chamorro now. Depending on her instructions, we are going to be in contact with you. Thank you.

Costa Rican Embassy Personnel Reportedly Leave Country

PA1903213293 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Costa Rican Embassy personnel fled to San Jose on 17 March fearing an extreme right group might try to occupy the embassy building in Managua. They left in such a hurry that they had no time to notify the Foreign Ministry of their departure, it was unofficially learned on the night of 18 March.

The swift departure of the entire Costa Rican Embassy staff, including the consulate employees, surprised diplomatic representatives accredited in Managua and Foreign Ministry officials, who interpreted the Costa Rican diplomats' action as a "discourtesy."

As the saying goes: "They sure didn't waste any time." The Costa Rican diplomats broke international regulations specifying that all embassies must notify the host country's Foreign Ministry whenever any of its personnel leave.

Costa Rican diplomats grew increasingly nervous this week after it was learned in Managua that high officers in the U.S. Delta Force, special troops trained for rescue operations, were already in San Jose.

The Costa Rican diplomats' silent departure occurred 10 days after the occupation of the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose by terrorist Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who from Costa Rica made the diplomatic officials "run away."

EL NUEVO DIARIO tried for several hours on 18 March to contact the Costa Rican mission by telephone, but no one answered the calls. The numbers dialed were 66-1963 and 66-0218 at the embassy, and 62-5573 at the consulate.

Chamorro Not To Step Down Before Term Ends

PA2003022693 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro on 19 March said she would not step down before the end of her term. Despite what people might say, she is doing her best for the country, she added. The president reiterated her hope that the country will receive U.S. aid. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's visit is meant to make known the Nicaraguan reality.

Chamorro expressed surprise over the alleged abandonment of the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua by Costa Rican officials, but explained it away saying they might be commemorating San Jose Day in their country. She also referred to the latest reports on what is going on in San Jose, where terrorists are still at the Nicaraguan embassy.

[Begin recording] [Chamorro] I am waiting for the Bolivian Government to extradite Antonio Ibarra.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Chamorro] We are waiting for him to be extradited, so he can come here to settle disagreements.

[Reporter] Your government was severely attacked last week. What do you have to say about the wave of attacks coming from all sides?

[Chamorro] I like this question. You can see I am calm and smiling. Because there is freedom, everyone can say whatever he wants, even attack me. I am doing my best for the country. What better situation could there be here, where people can speak freely? Many people have returned to the country. Many changes have been made here, but some people have already forgotten. I keep working for the homeland and I will not step down before the end of my term.

[Reporter] What about the national dialogue?

[Chamorro] Since the beginning, I proposed that we hold a national dialogue but they refused. But we should never lose hope and faith. We can talk any time they wish.

[Reporter] Has Robelo resigned?

[Chamorro] How could he, considering he is still held hostage.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Chamorro] The aid will come. Minister Antonio Lacayo is in Washington, precisely trying to talk with Republican and Democratic friends so they can learn what Nicaragua is and what we are doing. I have faith the aid will arrive.

[Reporter] Do you think a Truth Commission could also be created in Nicaragua, as it was in El Salvador?

[Chamorro] It could be done in the future. Everything that is good for the country can be done.

[Reporter] What are the latest reports on your officials at the embassy in San Jose?

[Chamorro] The latest report is that they are talking. God permitting, the problem can be settled today. Too much time has passed with so many people held at the embassy. Thank God, Cardinal Obando, our good friend, and Monsignor Arrieta, are there, as agreed.

[Reporter] What about the money the kidnappers demanded?

[Chamorro] There are no specific reports on their monetary demands or what we could deliver.

[Reporter] What about the report that the Costa Rican Embassy personnel left the country?

[Chamorro] The personnel perhaps are spending the San Jose holiday in the Costa Rican capital. I will try to find out.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Chamorro] We are in touch. Each official is in touch with his counterpart. I have talked with President Calderon twice.

[Reporter] One family reportedly is on a hunger strike at the Red Cross. The family has three children.

[Chamorro] Why are they on a hunger strike?

[Reporter] They are demanding justice. They addressed a letter to you on thefts they suffered in Masaya. Anyway, they have been on a hunger strike for 11 consecutive days. What about the children?

[Chamorro] The Red Cross representative knows about this situation. I have received no letter. I will ask Esperanza Morales.

[Reporter] Do you really think you will get aid for Nicaragua?

[Chamorro] I have faith, which is the last thing one loses. [end recording]

Former Comptroller General Questions 1993 Budget

PA2003215793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] A very important symposium was held on 18 March in the Ruben Dario room at the Intercontinental Hotel. Distinguished panelists, such as Mario Alegria Castillo, [former Comptroller General] Guillermo Potoy Angulo, and Armando Zambrana Fonseca, examined the country's 1993 general spending budget.

During his speech, Potoy Angulo said the current budget has been reduced by $95 million and is lower than the 1992 budget, which harms important state ministries that are productive and contribute to the national economy.

[Begin Potoy Angulo recording] The presidency minister and his Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] associates have continued the giveaway [words indistinct] with state-owned lands.

Upon studying the budget figures, we must not forget that the figures the government releases to the public from time to time are for the use of accountants and data processors. The true figures managed by the presidency minister, Army chief, and head of the FSLN faction are quite different. The figures they use are not and will not be available to anyone except the country's political-economic cabinet. However, due to some strange twist of fate, Mr. Lacayo's former lieutenant, Dr. Antonio Ibarra Rojas, is talking quite profusely about these figures in Washington.

I can tell you that Dr. Ibarra's remarks to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee refer, at any rate, to 1991. The question is, what happened in 1992 and what is happening during 1993? Likewise, the national budget figures that we are discussing may only represent a small part of the country's real budget. [end recording] figures that we are discussing may only represent a small part of the country's real budget. [end recording]

Panama

Endara Denies Splits Within Arnulfist Party

PA2203161793 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 93 p 11A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara denied the existence of disunity within the Arnulfist Party [PA]. He insisted that the party is united for the upcoming elections.

Endara said that at a recent PA meeting, held on 15 March at party President Mireya Moscoso de Gruber's residence, internal unity had been one of the main objectives.

He also stated that the date for the next party convention was decided during the meeting. He refused to disclose the date of the convention, claiming that it was not his place to reveal such information.

PA Legislator Francisco Artola stated that the next national convention would take place on 24 April in Boquete, Chiriqui.

Artola stated that one of the convention's main objectives is the modification of some statutes to prolong the mandate of Mrs. Moscoso de Gruber and the national board of directors.

The legislator also stated that changes and modifications would be introduced to the party's structure, mainly to the national board of directors.

Artola did not provide more details on the reasons behind the changes and modifications, but insisted that everything is aimed at ensuring greater party unity.

The PA president expressed her confidence in the party's victory at the 1994 elections.

PDC Leader Says No to Alliance With PRD

PA2103170793 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Mar 93 p D-3

[Article by Elvia Alvarado de Amador]

[Text] During his recent visit to Chiriqui, [Christian Democratic Party, PDC, President] Ricardo Arias Calderon said "no" to a question on whether his party would form an alliance with the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] in the forthcoming elections. He added: "The PRD represents the past and the dictatorship days we want to overcome. The PDC wants something new."

He noted: "We want to create hope. No alliance can be made with forces that represent the past."

Asked if all PRD people are corrupt, Arias Calderon said: "I think there was a lot of corruption during the dictatorship and the PRD bears a lot of responsibility for that, but I cannot say that all those people were corrupt. That would be illogical."

He added: "This is something for the Panamanian justice system to judge. The Attorney General's Office and the courts have the public commitment to investigate and to bring to trial people who committed crimes during the dictatorship and people who may have committed crimes after the dictatorship."

Minister Says Border Police To Function in Aug

PA2203163093 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Mar 93 p 14

[By Bienvenido Mojica]

[Text] During an interview, Government Minister Chevalier stated that the government is investing 2.5 million balboas to create the Border Police. The Border Police will aid largely in alleviating serious border problems, such as drug trafficking, which has increased considerably in the country, and the crossing of illegal aliens.

Chevalier added that it is very possible that the Border Police, which began training several days ago, may be functioning by August. The minister added that the necessary steps are being taken to obtain the necessary equipment so that the policemen can carry out their work effectively.

He did not mention the type of weapons that will be used by the policemen, adding that it is better if the criminals do not have this information. He stated that the Border Police will begin with 226 men, and that some borders may have more problems than others.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Returns From U.S. After 'Fruitful' Visit

PY2003130693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, 19 Mar (AFP-NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella confirmed today, 19 March, that no date has been set for a meeting between Presidents Carlos Menem and Bill Clinton.

However, Di Tella said he will return to Washington within a month for "profound" bilateral meetings when "the agenda and the subjects" to be discussed at the presidential meeting will be set. He said he expects this will take place at any moment within the next three months.

Di Tella said that he is returning today, 19 March, to Buenos Aires after a "fruitful" two-day visit to Washington.

The Argentine foreign minister added that in addition to bilateral issues, he reaffirmed to his interlocutors, among them Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the negative effects of the stagnation of the Uruguay round of GATT negotiations.

"The delay contributes to maintaining uncertainty concerning the commercial future and recovery," Di Tella stated. He blamed both the United States and the EEC for the lack of a conclusion on an agreement after nine years of negotiations, which began in 1986." [year as received]

He also discussed this subject with Claiborne Pell, a Democratic senator from Rhode Island, who is chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

Di Tella also expressed his concern over the future of the U.S. Free Trade Treaty (TLC), called NAFTA [North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement] here because of the English abbreviation.

The foreign minister said that negotiations for agreements supplementary to the TLC on labor rights, protection of the environment, and prevention of imports have led to the existence of a sort of "half NAFTA" instead of "another NAFTA" to include other countries such as Argentina and Chile.

Israel Requested To Identify Perpetrators of Embassy Attack

PY2003162793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0255 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Supreme Court Justice Ricardo Levene has issued a letter rogatory to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Perez to "accurately" report the available data on the possible perpetrators of the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

This request, channeled through the Foreign Ministry, was made as a result of rumors that circulated a few days ago that the Israeli authorities knew the identities of the perpetrators.

Levene, who is hearing the case, told journalists: "We do not keep quiet," but the actions "are in the prosecution stage and must not be made public."

Levene thus justified the "secrecy" of the investigation a year after the attack. Commenting on the progress made in the process, he said: "We have never discontinued the investigations."

He said that Attorney General Oscar Fappiano already has been informed of the results of the investigations, and that the court is awaiting experts' responses to the appraisals ordered within the proceedings adopted in the pre-trial inquest. [passage omitted]

Effects of Italian Corruption Scandal Felt in Argentina

PY1903220393 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—A list of all Italian loans granted to Argentina was made public by the government yesterday as a political storm with the loans at its centre gathered over September's electoral horizon.

The awarding of the special credits is surrounded by allegations of corruption in high places and yesterday's publication of a full list of recipients was probably meant to defuse and confuse the issue, a strategem applied with some success with the publication of Central Bank debts last year when a similar loans-related scandal boiled over.

The allegations are an echo of the current political crisis in Italy where politicians and businessmen are hotly defending themselves in court against charges of bribe-taking.

Extensive lists naming the official organizations, banks and private companies that received the credits were yesterday released by the Foreign Ministry, these credits having been awarded through an investment treaty signed by ex-President Raul Alfonsin and the Italian government back in 1987.

They show that the loans totalled 1.5 billion dollars, of which 781.7 million have already been used, the public sector soaking up 681.7 million dollars and 102 companies in the private sector 100 million.

The government released the lists following claims by the press that ex-Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, ambassador to Brazil Alieto Gudagni and ex-Foreign Ministry official Karim Yoma had been involved in irregular maneuvres around the loans. The publication has nothing to do with the accusations launched by Alfonsin against Karim Yoma, the Economy Ministry said.

Even though the list appears when public opinion is focused on the scandal, the Economy Ministry strongly emphasized that the appearance of state organizations, banks or private companies on the list didn't imply that their management was involved in any shady deals.

It is only a detailed list of the state organizations or private companies that requested the credits, the bank involved with the deal and the amount of the credit requested. It makes no mention of when these credits were disbursed, nor offer any further explanation.

The Yoma family obtained two credits for a total of some two million dollars while a third credit of over two million dollars wasn't granted. Food giant Matarazzo was the private company that obtained the largest loan, some 8.5 million dollars. The bank that handled the largest volume of credits was the Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, just under 19 million dollars.

Amongst the state projects listed that received the credits are Yacyreta, some 69 million dollars; Petroquimica Bahia Blanca, 120 million dollars; ENTel [National Telecommunications Enterprise], 135 million dollars; the Buenos Aires undergrounds, 70 million dollars to modernize the "A" line; and the Central Costanera power station (Segba), 94 million dollars to modernize four generators.

Others among the 102 private companies that were awarded credits some of the better known ones are Astra, Brassavora, Alpargatas, Terrabusi and Celulosa Campana. [passage omitted]

Government Explains Immigration Policy for Romanians

PY2003023193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1131 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA)—The Argentine Government has reiterated that its immigration policy in the face of the thousands of Romanians who want visa to emigrate to Argentina will only "consider an orderly process of immigrants with capital to our country."

In a communique, the Interior Ministry also reiterated yesterday that an eventual massive immigration must have the support of the international community "to ensure the useful settlement of the immigrants and to prevent them from becoming disloyal and unwanted competition in the labor market."

The communique also explained that Argentine Government operations to take care of this issue were jointly prepared by the Interior Ministry Population Secretariat, the Foreign Ministry, and "specialized international organizations."

The communique also says: "Until the international community and the Argentine Government coordinate the necessary measures to face the challenge created by the new wave of immigrants, applications by people who want to settle in Argentina by paying their travel costs and installation will be studied on a case-by-case basis."

The communique concluded by saying that this is the way it is "because Argentine officials have no interest in creating false expectations among people who are facing dramatic situations or in supporting an immigration for people who could not find the necessary conditions for human development and respect for people's dignity in the country."

Bolivia

Further on Government Negotiations With COB

Calmness Said Restored to La Paz

PY2003022193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2337 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report by Alejandro Varela]

[Text] La Paz, 18 Mar (EFE)—The presence of the Army and police on the streets of La Paz today imposed calmness for at least one day, after weeks of constant demonstrations that had caused a collapse in the city.

In addition to placing the military and police forces on the streets of the main Bolivian cities, the government has practically suspended the right to strike because it threatened to immediately dismiss those workers who, as of 22 March, fail to report to work for three consecutive days.

For the first time in March, La Paz today was a city in which it was possible to drive, although with the surveillance of small Army tanks and police patrols, whose presence reminded citizens of worse times.

Shortly before adopting this measure, President Jaime Paz Zamora met yesterday with General Oscar Vargas, the Armed Forces commander, and other military commanders.

According to a report by the local ANF [Fides News Agency] news agency, "military commanders" said the situation in Bolivia was "really worrisome and serious," adding that it "might negatively affect the nation's stability."

After Paz' meeting with the military commanders, five ministers hosted a news conference in which they announced the government's decision to discontinue negotiations with the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) and resort to all legal means to preserve public order on the streets.

Nevertheless, there were some street protests in La Paz, which were rapidly and totally neutralized by police.

Despite the government measures, demonstrations were sponsored in other cities like Oruro, 250 km south of La Paz, where—according to the news agency "Jhata"—

police clubbed and teargassed demonstrators in a protest march. Five demonstrators were arrested.

Despite the fact that the government managed to quell street demonstrations today, the stoppages, hunger strikes, and union demands continue in a situation of uncertainty as to what might happen in the next few hours.

Opposition leaders today told EFE that the current Bolivian situation is the most critical of the past four years.

Martin Quenta, a leader in the public teachers' area—the most intransigent labor class—said today that "we are not frightened by repressive forces," adding that teachers will continue "to take to the streets because we are in a democracy and the Constitution allows peaceful demonstrations."

President Paz Zamora today said he was confident the Bolivian people will "understand" the measures adopted by his government, and that "agreement, accord, and the possibility of holding a dialogue are more constructive for the country."

The Bolivian Government decided to resort to force after being harassed throughout the country by an avalanche of social protests of all kinds, especially after the COB rejected the last salary increase offer.

In announcing the discontinuation of talks with the COB, the planning minister spoke as if he were pronouncing a sentence: "The government has offered all it can, and it cannot offer anything else."

The government's last salary increase proposal to the COB, which is still valid, was 20 percent.

As an example of the difficulties in the negotiations, public teachers demand that their salary increase from 330 bolivianos (some $80) a month—which is their current salary—to 1,400 bolivianos a month (some $340), for which reason they do not agree with the 20-percent salary increase.

Police, Armed Forces on Alert

PY1903202093 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The government announced today that negotiations with the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] are over. The police and the Armed Forces have been put on alert in case of any emergency. [passage omitted]

This announcement was made by members of President Paz Zamora's cabinet who this afternoon gave a news conference at the Information Ministry. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno was questioned by the press on the measures to be implemented. Planning Minister Samuel Doria Medina defended the government position on the economic issues discussed with the union leaders. Labor Minister Eusebio Gironda, Information Minister Jose Luis Lupo, and Roberto Pena, minister without portfolio, also attended the meeting. Due to the importance of this event we will repeat the news conference.

[Begin recording] [Doria Medina] As a result of the conflict with the COB the following communique has been released:
1. One of the main goals of the government of National Unity headed by President Jaime Paz Zamora is to watch for the country's democratic continuity, social peace, stability, and economic growth as the basic pillars to enter the 21st Century as a modern and more just nation for all Bolivians.
2. Within this spirit, the national government negotiated with the COB over the last few weeks. Unfortunately, efforts and the political will to reach a satisfactory solution encountered an irrational attitude by certain radical sectors affiliated to the COB that caused the union leadership to reject the government offer and to increase pressure.
3. It should remain clear that the pre-agreement reached by the government and the COB was the result of a long negotiation in which government officials have shown their disposition for both dialogue and agreement and through the offer of a real salary increase without affecting the economic stability that was achieved through the sacrifice of all Bolivians.
4. This attitude was accompanied with the barricading of streets and avenues in the cities, damage to public and private property, and street marches that due to their violence in some cases injured people who were not participating.
5. In the face of the intransigent attitude of the COB, the Government of National Unity sees the need to declare that the negotiations are over.
6. In strict compliance with the Constitution and the laws of the republic, the government of the Nation has ordered the implementation of actions to safeguard the free circulation and transit in the entire national territory and the enforcement of public order.
7. Those people or groups who insist on measures that are against the security of people and their goods will be punished according to the law to guarantee the security of the state and its inhabitants.

If reporters have any questions for the ministers here, I ask you to identify the minister to whom the question is aimed.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] that the hunger strikes will be intervened?

[Saavedra] The communique says that all the necessary measures will be implemented. To safeguard the free transit of all citizens a request was made for the cooperation of the Armed Forces and the police.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Saavedra] As far as the government is concerned the negotiations are over due to the intransigence of the COB. The government maintains its offer which has been rejected.

[Reporter] Minister Doria Medina [words indistinct].

[Doria Medina] The negotiations were long. The offer made was in accordance with what could be paid and there are no real possibilities of more salary increases. We are not going to risk the economic stability that was achieved through great sacrifice by more than 6 million Bolivians. Ten years ago the same union leaders obtained salary increases every week but they were worthless. We will not risk hyperinflation and we will not implement measures that jeopardize the stability of the economy that was obtained through great sacrifices.

[Reporter] Mr. Interior Minister, is there a possibility of declaring a state of siege under these circumstances?

[Saavedra] Although this measure is within the framework of the Constitution, we have not yet studied that possibility. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Potosi 'Besieged' by Military, Police

PY2003151193 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Report by Dinky Castillo from Potosi]

[Excerpts] Potosi was besieged by military and police forces at dawn yesterday. The following is a chronological account of the events:

The city was besieged during a military operation yesterday between 0400 and 0500 in which violent methods that marked the dictatorships of former President Hugo Banzer and President Luis Garcia Meza were used.

University students, mine workers, sutdent teachers, and teachers were forced to lift their blockades at the entry checkpoints to the city of Potosi.

The Army took control of the city and the Tomas Frias University was surrounded. [passage omitted]

The first clashes were reported between 0930 and 1030. First the Army and then police forces were involved in the clashes with university students, who wanted to break the siege and enter the university. As a consequence, five university students and four policemen were injured, but not seriously. A policemen sustained more serious injuries and was even disarmed, losing his revolver. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified demonstrator] They [not further specified] ordered you to shot at us. You cannot do that. We are defending our country's interests so that it will not be surrendered to Yankee imperialism. We are defending the university so that one may enter and be educated. We are defending your parents' salaries. You cannot shoot at us. We demand the immediate release of our comrades who are in there. We demand that you withdraw from there. Turn your submachineguns around. [end recording] [passage omitted]

At about 1430, Potosi Mayor Daniel Oropeza announced the withdrawal of the military forces from the city and their return to their barracks.

A huge demonstration, championing the restoration of honor and democracy, was held at 1500 yesterday. Popular, trade union, and civic organizations, drivers, teachers, university students, and ordinary people took to the streets. Chanting slogans, they asked for Daniel Oropeza's head and his resignation. [passage omitted]

Military Presence 'Utterly Exaggerated'

PY2003133093 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] After the social upheaval that the country has been experiencing over the past few days, the government firmly decided to end the social tension. To this end, yesterday morning—Father's Day—the government was forced to use not only all police but also Armed Forces personnel.

Our capital looked different yesterday, bringing back memories of episodes during bloody dictatorships.

We believe the presence of so many military forces and light tanks in downtown La Paz has been utterly exaggerated, especially the light assault tanks. We believed these tanks would never again enter our cities, intimidating the people.

But things are different today. The situation has changed from yesterday. The police and military forces have withdrawn to their barracks.

Student Dies in Potosi Clash

PY2203033593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1832 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] La Paz, 21 Mar (EFE)—Military control of public order, which resulted in one individual killed; the special congressional session to give a green light to constitutional reform; and the upcoming general elections characterize the difficult political and social situation in Bolivia these days.

Less than three months from the general elections, the Bolivian Government has been facing a social crisis, derived from labor union problems, which has forced the government to impose military control over the main Bolivian cities and virtually suspend the right to strike. This has resulted in the death of an individual today in Potosi, 551 km south of La Paz.

It has been officially reported that student Javier Ramirez Melchor, 14, died today as a consequence of injuries received yesterday during a clash in Potosi between demonstrators and military troops. Ramirez was hit on the head with a tear gas canister launched by the military.

Several political circles consulted by EFE agreed that the student's death can "complicate the situation and make the labor unions' protests more radical."

The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) has reported that despite the measures of force adopted by the government, the demonstrations, stoppages, and hunger strikes will continue tomorrow.

In an interview published today by the daily LA RAZON, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra stated that he believes the social conflict is being created exclusively by "a small minority of extremists."

The JATHA agency has reported that Interior Under Secretary Marco Antonio Oviedo said today that "if necessary, the government will resort to the use of force to ensure that national activities are carried out in normal fashion." He added the Armed Forces and the police will continue to patrol the streets countrywide.

Pressure from the labor unions coincides with the opening of a special congressional session that will discuss, among other topics, a bill on the need to reform the Constitution. This session was called as a result of the agreements President Jaime Paz Zamora signed on 9 July with the leaders of the main Bolivian political parties.

The congressmen will begin debating and seeking political consensus while outside Congress almost 1,000 people are on hunger strike; while the areas of health, mining, and education are paralyzed; and while demonstrations are resumed, although now under the vigilant watch of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Commander Says Armed Forces Not To Reduce Personnel

PY2203122593 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 12 Mar 93 p A3

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti said yesterday that even if there is a "predominant" tendency in the neighboring countries to reduce the number of their military personnel, Bolivia will not do so.

Following the end of the cold war and the intensification of the regional integration processes, several countries have reduced their military cadres, which were deemed excessive.

This tendency also affected Latin American countries like Argentina and Brazil.

Gen. Vargas Lorenzetti said: "Our Armed Forces are already smaller than those of any other Latin American country. We cannot reduce them further because the country needs a military instrument to ensure the normalcy of its activities."

He added: "Our number has remained the same for five years. We will not reduce or increase it."

Other countries have reduced the number of their Armed Forces personnel stating that the Armed Forces must be small but efficient. The Bolivian general said: "Some argue that the Armed Forces should be small, highly technical, and scientific, but technology and science are expensive and we have economic limitations in Bolivia."

Two Airplanes To Be Used in Drug Enforcement Operations

PY2003155493 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Report by Marcelo Huanca from Santa Cruz]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Two airplanes were presented in the capital of Santa Cruz Department yesterday: an E-3 [Sentry] airplane, with a radar system, and a KC-135 [Stratotanker] airplane to refuel the E-3 airplane. These two airplanes will be used in drug enforcement operations and in controlling our airspace.

Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] officials have said that, in this way, with U.S. support, the FELCN intends to improve drug enforcement operations that so far have faced some difficulties, precisely due to a lack of this type of support.

At the Viru-Viru International Airport tarmac yesterday, the FELCN officials explained all of the functions carried out by these two airplanes that henceforth will control Bolivian airspace.

Brazil

Franco Declares Starvation, Misery Government's Main Problems

PY2003140193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Mar 93 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco yesterday stated that the country is in a state of social emergency, noting that the government attaches absolute priority to the erradication of misery and the immediate fight against starvation. Franco urged society and municipal and state governments to take initiatives all over the country to help attain such objectives. At the third cabinet meeting, which lasted 4 hours and 40 minutes and which was held in Planalto Palace's Oval Hall, the president evaluated his first five months in office and addressed such social matters as the cholera epidemics and the drought affecting the northeastern region. Each minister spoke for up to 10 minutes about his work. Yet despite the urgency of the issues, no immediate solution was devised. The measures consisted of ordering a design of plans.

In his opening speech, Franco said that "I hereby decree that starvation and misery will become the government's main problems."

In 15 days, the ministers are expected to submit plans and projects for eradicating starvation and misery. Contrary to what was expected, the National Nutrition Security Council was not created. The council was replaced by a special commission subordinate to Planning Minister Yeda Crusius.

Cholera will be controlled with basic sanitary plans and projects for critical areas like the Fluminense region and the northern and northeastern regions. An allocation of $180 million has been earmarked for drought control. Funds will be released through a provisional measure in 10 days, which is the deadline for governors to submit plans for using the funds. In 60 days, after listening to representative social organizations and northeastern state governors, President Itamar Franco will set in motion what he called the "Agenda for the Northeast."

"It is not a support allocation. It is an allocation with productive objectives. The agenda will serve to prevent problems from perpetuating themselves, government after government. The agenda will provide a permanent plan that may be continued after my term," President Franco said a few minutes before the meeting.

Starvation was the first item on the agenda. The matter was addressed by sociologist Herbert de Souza—Betinho—and by Planning Minister Yeda Crusius, who analyzed the situation and presented a starvation map. Betinho said that the government's priority is to pay not the financial debt but the debt owed to social classes, even if this creates a deficit.

"I don't care if I have to create a deficit to pay the debt owed to social classes," Betinho said.

The sociologist told a worrysome story to the ministers. He said that starvation affects 32 million Brazilian have-nots. He added that in Rio de Janeiro, illegal activities like gambling and drug trafficking are the only choice for 2 million starving people.

The meeting was attended by all ministers and by Roberto Freire, PPS [People's Socialist Party] leader for Pernambuco—the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies—and Pedro Simon, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] leader for Rio Grande do Sul, the government leader in the Senate.

Resende Discusses Anti-Inflation Strategy at Cabinet Meeting

PY2003190693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Mar 93 p 7

[Article by Beatriz Abreu]

[Text] Brasilia—An anti-inflationary strategy and a selective reactivation of economic growth were among the main points discussed by Finance Minister Eliseu Resende during yesterday's cabinet meeting. Eliseu assessed the current economic situation, marked by preventive price adjustments, and reported on the 15-point economic action and goals program of Itamar Franco's administration.

The minister said that, concerning monetary policy, the government intends to control the money supply on the market and the exchange rate to preserve the competitiveness of exported products. Interest rates will remain at a high level at the beginning of the implementation of the economic stabilization program. Later, according to Economy Ministry advisers, the interest rates will be reduced gradually, even by taking advantage of the recovery of economic activities that has already been identified in some sectors, such as civil construction.

Technical studies delivered to the minister confirm that the current interest rates make the recovery of economic growth unviable. If the government, after the stabilization conditions are created, would begin to implement monthly real interest rates of 1 percent, 12.5 percent interest rates per annum would be achieved. This percentage would be well below the current monthly real interest rates of 3 percent, with interest rates of 42.5 per annum.

The economic action and goals program that the minister intends to officially announce next month foresees a selective recovery of economic growth. The idea is to encourage the civil construction and export sectors, which are more capable of creating new jobs. In addition, some actions will attempt to increase savings and restrain consumption. According to Economy Ministry advisers, during the meeting, the minister shunned the details on the measures still being studied by technical area experts.

In his speech, the minister said that public accounts make it difficult to control the government's deficit. He mentioned the problems caused by hefty liabilities such as the Salary Variation Compensatory Fund (FCVS) that covers the balance due by past Housing Financial System financial plans: $20 billion is due for payment by the year 2012. An installment totaling more than $2 billion as well as debts for the electric sector and the Unemployment Compensation Fund become due this year.

* Othon on Expanded Uranium Enrichment Capability

93WP0111A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 12 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[Article by Jose Casado: "More Uranium Enrichment Capability"]

[Text] Sao Paulo—The government has decided to increase the country's installed capacity for uranium enrichment by 29 percent this year. That expansion will occur in laboratories belonging to the Navy, which operates the parallel nuclear program—or autonomous nuclear program, as the military prefer to call it.

The Navy's Special Projects Coordinating Board (Copesp) is going to set up 162 new enrichment ultracentrifuges designed, developed, and manufactured entirely in Brazil, according to Rear Admiral Othon Luiz Pinheiro da Silva, president of Copesp.

He says that 565 ultracentrifuges have already been installed in Copesp's laboratories in Sao Paulo. The system operates in the form of a "cascade": the level of uranium enrichment is directly related to the number of ultracentrifuges in operation.

The Navy has been insisting that it now has complete mastery of the technology for nuclear fuel production and that because of a political option, it does not intend to go beyond the 20-percent level in uranium enrichment (the higher the level of enrichment, the more suitable the material is for use in military devices).

"Our objective is to build a demonstration plant with about 8,000 ultracentrifuges," says Silva. The U.S. Government, which has exerted successive pressures to slow the nuclear program being operated by the military, indicates in a recent report that 3,000 ultracentrifuges have been installed in Brazil.

The Navy has spent $565.9 million over the past 13 years to develop the technology for fuel production, design a nuclear-powered submarine, and build a reactor for small and medium-size nuclear power plants (from 11 to 600 megawatts).

Those three projects are interconnected and are being carried out by Copesp with a budget totaling $76 million for this year. Similar expenditures will be made by the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research (IPEN), which is located next to Copesp headquarters at the University of Sao Paulo (USP).

That is only part of the public money being spent on the parallel nuclear program, which is being carried out in laboratories controlled by the National Nuclear Energy Commission and is linked to the Strategic Affairs Secretariat in the Office of the Presidency of the Republic.

The official program at the Angra dos Reis plant has already cost about $10 billion, according to estimates by the government itself. That plant spends more time shut down than it does operating. For example, in the blackout that left Rio de Janeiro and part of Espirito Santo without electricity on Wednesday, Angra I could not be started up: it was down for "maintenance."

Stored equipment and financial costs in connection with Angra II add up to $100 million annually, according to official data.

Poor management and scant results have been a constant in the Brazilian nuclear program. Researchers at Unicamp [Campinas State University] estimate that for every dollar obtained as a result of nuclear research in our country, another $100 have been spent—a ratio averaging 10 times as much as that in other countries.

Silva, who is coordinator of one of the main research programs controlled by the military, argues: "We spend very little on nuclear research in Brazil compared to what would be desirable. In the Navy, the priority is efficiency with economy. I feel that in other areas, there really has been bad management."

There is evidence now that President Itamar Franco has given in to pressure to give new financial impetus to the main scientific and reequipment projects of the Armed Forces. Some of those projects are crucially dependent upon an expansion of our installed capacity for uranium enrichment.

The Navy, for example, is going to set up a new laboratory for the characterization of materials in Sao Paulo in June and is planning another unit for the study of hydrodynamics at the start of next year. It is also beginning to design a storage facility for nuclear fuel.

Those studies have not yet started. But it has already been decided that the storage facility will be set up on an island in the ocean and that it will be capable of storing nuclear fuel for up to 50 years.

The Air Force has just received authorization to go ahead with its project for a subsonic fighter plane (see the separate article [not included here]) and to speed up research in connection with its Satellite Launch Vehicle (VLS), which is an essential part of its ballistic missile program. It is receiving funds to expedite construction of a sophisticated satellite in partnership with China after spending $12 million in January on a contract with a U.S. firm to launch its first satellite, which is much simpler from the technological standpoint.

* Winners, Losers in Proposed Union Budget Noted

93SM0190C Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Feb 93 p 3

[Article: "Social Action Will Receive Biggest Slice of Union Budget"]

[Text] Brasilia—As the third month of 1993 approaches, the great mystery of Itamar Franco's administration—where the government's money will go this year—is beginning to be revealed. Execution of the Union budget should have begun on 1 January, but not until next week will the administration, Congress, and the taxpayers be completely informed about how federal funds are going to be used.

But based on an announcement by the rapporteur for the proposed budget, Senator Mansueto de Lavor (PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], Pernambuco), it is already known that the Ministry of Social Welfare is getting the biggest slice of the investment budget: it will administer 94 trillion cruzeiros. In second place is the Ministry of Regional Integration with 79.2 trillion cruzeiros. Bringing up the rear is the Ministry of Culture, which will administer only 5.5 trillion cruzeiros. The government's investments in the country will amount to only 3.25 percent of the total budget.

Who Loses, Who Wins

	Percent	
State	Law	Budget
Sao Paulo	11.28	3.76
Rio de Janeiro	5.20	8.30
Rondonia	2.00	1.70
Acre	2.23	1.14
Amazonas	1.84	3.91
Roraima	2.44	0.97
Maranhao	5.60	4.77
Piaui	5.23	7.10
Pernambuco	4.52	6.10
Bahia	5.64	10.26
Alagoas	3.31	2.75
Minas Gerais	6.52	6.63
Rio Grande do Sul	6.52	6.63
Federal District	1.06	3.84

The executive branch's budget proposal for 1993 dates back to the time of former President Fernando Collor. In his hasty revision of that proposal, President Itamar Franco did not correct the distortions in the budget bill, and the result is a loss of 79.4 trillion cruzeiros for most of the states in the South and Southeast, the beneficiaries being the states in the North and Northeast. This has already caused a quarrel between Mansueto de Lavor and Governor Alceu Collares (PDT [Democratic Labor Party], Rio Grande do Sul).

Agreement Signed With France on Drug, Gold Trafficking

PY2003000993 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The governments of Brazil and France have signed an agreement to fight gold smuggling and drug trafficking between the two countries.

Finance Minister Eliseu Resende and French Ambassador to Brazil Jean-Bernard Ouvrieu today signed the agreement to repress gold and wood smuggling, in addition to drug trafficking between the two countries, especially on the route between Amapa and Guyana.

The cooperation agreement also provides for the prevention of other customs fraud. The document signed between the two countries will provide a legal basis for reciprocal notification of irregularities.

Mutual cooperation conditions will be set on two points considered essential: special oversight on the movement of merchandise earmarked for other countries and exchange of information and data related to irregular operations that are either confirmed or suspected.

The two countries' customs administrations will be charged with adopting measures so that officials charged with the investigation of fraud will be in personal and direct communication. The objective is to prevent, investigate, or repress violations of customs laws in Brazil and France.

Chile

Foreign Minister Refutes Criticism on Economic Affairs

PY1903192293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, with his aides, has refuted criticism by the opposition on the alleged weakness with which the Foreign Ministry handles economic affairs and the lack of modernization.

Silva Cimma said that many of these criticisms seek to jeopardize the government in order to obtain electoral gains which seriously affects Chile's image abroad.

[Begin Silva recording] I wish to refer to a subject that has been the target of criticism by various sectors of the media during the past few days. It is said that the Foreign Ministry economic diplomacy is weak, that the Foreign Ministry is obsolete, that it must become more modern. In other words, there have been a series of criticisms, mainly with a political connotations, which in some way or another distort the Foreign Ministry's image. [end recording]

Silva Cimma said that these criticisms result from a lack of information of the new international situation which is characterized by the lack of clear and compulsory rules by which economic problems between states must be solved. He added that rules do not necessarily solve conflicts.

Silva Cimma said that the Foreign Ministry conducts a policy that represents the feeling of the entire citizenry. Therefore, one has to be very careful in making criticism.

Finally Silva Cimma recalled the achievements of his ministry in the field of exports and the free trade agreements that will be signed soon with Venezuela, Colombia, and Bolivia.

PS' Lagos: Coalition Could Have Two Candidates

PY1903211393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Ricardo Lagos, presidential hopeful for the Socialist Party [PS] and the Party for Democracy [PPD], spoke during a dinner party at the Spanish Club with about 1,000 professionals who support him. He said that if no agreement is reached within the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD], it will not break up; it will run two candidates in the presidential elections.

Lagos added that the CPPD is first, adding that this does not mean that the project and ideas of the sector he represents come second because this would mean they have no raison d'etre.

Lagos said that his project, which reflects the ideas of the PS and PPD, is not a new deceitful ideology but rather the result of profound reflections.

The presidential hopeful added that during the past few months they have endured all sorts of criticisms from that presidential alternative, adding that he has remained silent on the matter most of the time. He stated that this was not the last supper, more the beginning of a new project. He added that projects cannot be discarded or negotiated.

It was leaked during the dinner party that details of the final agreement on the mechanisms to elect the candidate of the CPPD will be disclosed next week. The more optimistic believe it will be on 22 March.

Colombia

Police Arrest Two Escobar Associates Linked to Car Bombs

PA1903150693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Medellin—The Police Search Block looking for Pablo Escobar arrested two key men in Escobar's organization, Juan Carlos Londono Sanchez, alias Juancaca, and Luis Fernando Acosta Mejia, alias Nanga, in the last few hours. The authorities said the two men had strict orders from the man known as El Chopo [Juan Alberto Castano] to carry out terrorist attacks with car bombs in Cali and Pereira over the coming three-day weekend.

The government had offered a reward for Londono Sanchez, who is accused of participating in the murders of the Moncada and Galeano brothers, which unleashed an internal struggle in the Medellin Cartel and led to the creation of the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar group.

The official report stated that the arrested individuals offered to cooperate with the authorities. They also admitted they were responsible for car bombs in Santa Fe de Bogota, including one that exploded at the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise [Telecom]. The car bomb exploded by accident at Telecom; it was intended for northern Santa Fe de Bogota.

Londono Sanchez and Acosta Mejia, who surrendered five rifles, are also accused of participating in terrorist attacks in Santa Fe de Bogota, Medellin, and Barrancabermeja.

'Escobar Search Bloc' Arrests Medellin Cartel Members

PA2003213493 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Medellin—The Pablo Escobar Search Bloc has arrested two Medellin Cartel members while they were preparing three car bombs at a ranch in Envigado, southern Aburra valley.

The Search Bloc arrested Guillermo Sosa Navarro, alias Memo Goliz, and Luis Fernando Cordoba Mesa, alias Vanesa, who is El Chopo's [Mario Castano—killed on 19 March 1993 by police] brother-in-law, when they were preparing three car bombs to be detonated over the weekend in Santa Fe de Bogota, Pereira, and Cartagena.

A Search Bloc spokesman explained that the 3,000 kg of dynamite found at the El Cairo ranch was enough to destroy an entire city. The arrested men are in the custody of the regional prosecutor, who will determine their possible transfer to Santa Fe de Bogota in the next hours.

Government intelligence organizations are investigating the origin of the dynamite found at the El Cairo ranch, Benedictinos hill, Envigado Municipality, on 19 March. During the raid, authorities also arrested Guillermo Sosa Navarro and Luis Fernando Cordoba Mesa. The dynamite was hidden in water tanks buried beside bushes, using a Spanish camouflage system [words indistinct].

The official spokesman reported that the two Medellin Cartel men did not resist the arrest and surrendered when they saw they were surrounded by government personnel. He also asserted that several documents found there—one of them written by El Chopo—lead them to believe that the dynamite was going to be used over this long weekend in Cartagena, Pereira, and Cali [cities as heard]. The official added that the investigation is geared toward establishing the origin of the dynamite and how it was brought to the Aburra valley. [sentence indistinct].

Police Kill Medellin Cartel Leader Castano

PA1903232693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Medellin—Mario Alberto Castano Molina [name as heard], alias El Chopo, military chief of the Medellin Cartel, carried two fake identification cards, allegedly issued in La Estrella and Yali, Antioquia Department. Castano Molina was killed by the Pablo Escobar Gaviria Search Bloc [group as heard] in an apartment on the 20th floor of a building in Medellin, capital of Antioquia Department.

El Chopo, who had shaved his moustache to change his appearance and look different from the television advertisements offering rewards, had fooled the authorities by

identifying himself as Uriel de Jesus Higuita Gaviria in some cases, and as Javier Antonio Jaramillo Canas in others.

Castano Molina, considered to be the most feared man in Escobar Gaviria's organization, was shirtless and wearing only jeans and black shoes.

It was stated that the authorities found a 9-mm pistol with 18 rounds and, according to the preliminary report from the assistant district attorney who retrieved the body, El Chopo was shot 48 times. The official report stated that Escobar Gaviria's lieutenant did have a chance to confront the troops of the Search Bloc because several shots from his weapon were found on the wall.

The luxurious apartment had only a few pieces of furniture and was used two or three time per week as a dormitory by the Medellin Cartel military chief. A stroller for babies was also found in the penthouse [Previous word in English].

The Medellin Cartel military chief's body was still in the municipal amphitheater on the afternoon of 19 March.

Authorities believe that the deaths of Mario Alberto Castano Molina and Jose Luis Ospina Alvarez, alias Pasquin, as well as the captures of Juan Carlos Londono Sanchez, alias Juancaca, and Luis Fernando Acosta Mejia, alias Nanga, could accelerate Escobar's capture or surrender.

Colombian TV Reports Government Communique on Escobar

PA1903185293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Here is a last-minute report. While Monsignor Dario Castrillon reiterated his will to mediate in the surrender of Pablo Escobar, the government denied that it was negotiating his surrender.

Regarding the possible surrender of Pablo Escobar Gaviria to the authorities, the Colombian Government has just issued a communique in which it guarantees the Medellin Cartel leader safety for himself and his family, if he decides to surrender to justice.

In a six-point communique, the government stated that it is not negotiating or engaging in dialogue for the surrender of Pablo Escobar to the authorities. The government says it is the government's purpose, through the search bloc, to find all of the criminals who escaped from Envigado Prison last July. The government says that even though Pablo Escobar has the option to surrender to justice, it does not mean that the government will grant him a series of concessions to do so. If Pablo Escobar decides to turn himself in and go to court, the law will be implemented, states the government.

Prosecutor General Says Escobar Surrender 'Not Imminent'

PA2003203493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The Prosecutor General's Office does not think the death of Mario Castano Molina, alias El Chopo, necessarily spells the end for top Medellin Cartel leader Pablo Escobar. Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff said the death of El Chopo, who is believed to be a Medellin Cartel military strategist and Pablo Escobar's right-hand man, was an important blow dealt by the Search Unit, but Escobar still has many men:

[Begin De Greiff recording] In Colombia we must stop acting like people of the tropics [tropicalista]; that is, blowing things out of proportion. I think it was a heavy blow, but we cannot say the cartel was decimated. [end recording]

According to the prosecutor general, Escobar's capture or surrender is not imminent despite recent blows dealt by the unit searching for Pablo Escobar's military and financial apparatus.

[Begin De Greiff recording] That is among the options he has. One would have to be able to read his mind to know what option he will choose, but I do not think he will surrender or face justice soon. [end recording]

Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff and Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta have reaffirmed to Pablo Escobar's attorneys that their client must surrender unconditionally with no guarantees other than those established by law. In a communique issued in the past few hours, the government guaranteed protection for the relatives of those who surrender.

Police Find Cartel Member's Headquarters, Escobar Vehicles

PA2103194893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In Medellin, the Search Team discovered El Chopo's [Mario Castano's] headquarters.

Early on the morning of 21 March, the Search Team resumed its work to try to find Medellin Cartel head Pablo Escobar Gaviria. The first raids took place in western Medellin. A house raided near the stadium yielded nothing. Police also raided an apartment contiguous to the one where El Chopo was killed two days ago. Apparently he also owned this apartment, where the police seized documents and invoices.

During the raids conducted on the evening of 20 March by the Search Team in Medellin and nearby municipalities, seven vehicles were confiscated. According to the police, these vehicles were another of Escobar's collections. This collection, a very luxurious one that included

several Mercedes Benz automobiles, one MG, and one Packard, was estimated to be worth over 300 million pesos.

AD/M-19's Navarro Denies Resignation, Internal Division

PA1903230193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report by Guillermo Gonzalez]

[Text] Antonio Navarro, presidential candidate and former minister, has denied he resigned as top leader of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19]. He also denied there is internal division in the group. Navarro added that two work teams with different strategies could be established. One would design the campaign for the March elections and the other would support the presidential candidacy of the person elected by the alliance as its representative for the May 1994 elections.

[Begin Navarro recording] For the presidential election we must maintain our thesis of a broad partisanship, which will offer an alternative, fight corruption and influence peddling, and will honor the Constitution. [end recording]

A proposal Navarro will present to AD/M-19 leaders on 23 March suggesting an internal consultation to elect a presidential candidate and to discuss possible political alliances with other parties has not been ruled out.

Only two things, however, are clear to the AD/M-19 for the time being: One, Antonio Navarro will remain its leader, and two, anything goes in war and politics.

ELN Dissidents Prepared To Negotiate Peace

PA2003154893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The rapprochement between the government and Army of National Liberation [ELN] dissidents was accelerated on 19 March. Spokesmen from the Socialist Renewal Movement, an ELN dissident faction, met with government representatives to discuss a possible peace agreement. They have come a long way between the time they were members of ELN forces in the countryside and when we met with them on 19 March on the streets of Santa Fe de Bogota. Jacinto Ruiz, leader of the Socialist Renewal Movement dissident faction, said that despite being hounded by the Army, the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG], and paramilitary groups, they are ready to bargain. Here is what Jacinto Ruiz said:

[Begin Ruiz recording] We are demonstrating realistically that we do not believe in [words indistinct] struggle. We believe that currently the broad democratic political struggle [words indistinct] of 1991 is the road to take. [end recording]

In Santa Fe de Bogota on 19 March, the dissident organization provided the government with a list of names of the guerrillas who would form the negotiating commission. According to the spokesmen, those individuals will represent the 500 men who are willing to surrender their weapons on three fronts: Medellin, Santa Fe de Bogota, and Barranquilla.

[Begin Ruiz recording] We are ready to begin the negotiations. As we are dispersed in different parts of the national territory, when the time comes we must determine how those talks will be conducted. There is definitely a willingness to disarm if we arrive at a positive agreement. [end recording]

The dissident leader disclosed that the break with Father Manuel Perez and the CNG was due to differences regarding kidnapping, the collection of protection money, and terrorists activities.

[Begin Ruiz recording] We hope the CNG will respect our political autonomy and our willingness to find a negotiated solution to the national conflict. We call on our CNG comrades to join a process that means opportunities for a democratic alternative in the nation. [end recording]

The government and ELN dissident group negotiating commissions are already set up. Talks are expected to begin next week.

FARC Reportedly Produces, Sells Cocaine Directly

PA2103201193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Army Commander General Hernan Guzman and Administrative Department of Security Director Fernando Brito reported on 21 March that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] is exporting drugs. The guerrillas moved up from drug traffickers' assistants to exporters.

According to military intelligence sources, FARC is financing its criminal activities by the production and direct export of drugs to the United States. This has enabled them to maintain their organization. Gen. Guzman has said that FARC has become the country's third drug cartel.

[Begin Guzman recording] Several of the mafia heads owed money to FARC, which collected by seizing coca processing labs. The organization then assumed production and marketing activities. [end recording]

Five years ago, FARC started by protecting coca plantations. Later they decided to become producers. To export the drug, they got in touch with intermediaries who had previously worked for the Cali and Medellin cartels.

According to Guzman, FARC has full control of drug production in some areas and this has caused a war between the cartels and the guerrillas.

[Begin Guzman recording] There have been heavy clashes, in which drug cartel members and guerrillas have died. [end recording]

The Army has no doubts that the 41 FARC fronts operating in the country are busy producing, distributing, and selling cocaine.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Says Election 'To Come What May'

PY1903190893 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Accompanied by cabinet ministers, President Andres Rodriguez met with 26 delegations of various sectors of Caaguazu Department today from 0830 to 1430 during his working day at the Government Delegate Office in the city of Coronel Oviedo.

President Rodriguez first met with representatives of the Coronel Oviedo diocese, who voiced concern about the way the political campaign is being conducted. Father Victor Miranda, the priest of the Coronel Oviedo Cathedral, said that he has proof that naive local landless peasants are being manipulated by Marxist-oriented individuals.

[Begin recording] [Vazquez] They want land, but they do not know that a Marxist, leftist ideology is behind all this. They are unaware of it.

[Unidentified reporter] Are these people instigating violence?

[Vazquez] These people are somehow manipulating the peasants. [end recording]

Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia said he also received reports to this effect and that action will be taken with special operation forces, but declined to charge any political movement.

[Begin recording] [Estigarribia] Here in South America there are still people who are trying to pursue a Marxist-oriented socialist dream. We have reports that naive peasants are incited to illegally occupy land. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Estigarribia rejected remarks by a Mr. Alvarenga, a Caaguazu Department leader for the Argana-Ybanez ticket, who said that they will take to the streets to prevent the May election if the Colorado Party participates in the election with the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, which is doomed to failure.

[Begin recording] [Estigarribia] It is a wild remark, it is nothing but bravado. No one can expect that to comply with the Constitution and the laws we should use force. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Evaluating his day in Coronel Oviedo, President Rodriguez said that he learned of the need for more schools, health centers, and rural roads. Commenting on the political situation, Rodriguez stated that the May election will be held come what may and that foreign observers will determine if the elections are open and democratic. He also met with departmental Colorado leaders.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Local Colorado leaders wanted to know about what is expected from them if they are to conform to the Electoral Code. I told them that, in accordance with the Electoral Code and the Constitution, national elections will be held on 9 May come what may and that no one will be able to prevent it. We are going to make every effort to ensure that the elections are conducted as openly and democratically as possible because we will have an adequate number of foreign observers assigned by the OAS secretary general. These observers will judge if the elections are clean and democratic.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you met with opposition members here too?

[Rodriguez] Opposition leaders were also here and wanted to know my position after the 9 May election. I told them that it is my position as president of the Republic to respect the outcome of the election, irrespective of who is the winner. Thus, they can rest assured that the outcome of the election will be respected. They must thus instill credibility in the people. Each citizen must exercise his civic right of electing the officials who will be inaugurated on 15 August, which will be a Sunday.

[Reporter] A last question, Mr. President. What about those people, those Colorado members who urge their fellow members not to vote for the official candidates, that is, for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket.

[Rodriguez] Well, in a democracy absolutely no one can force another to do anything. I believe, however, that every Colorado member who truly loves his party will not fail to vote. I believe Colorado members will vote for their party. I believe that in so doing they will comply with their duty as good citizens and as party members who truly love their party. [end recording]

Wasmosy-Seifart Ticket Announces Platform

PY2003152293 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 93 pp 2, 3

[Excerpt] The economic and political platform of the Colorado candidates for president and vice president of the Republic, Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart, respectively, was officially presented last night during a ceremony in the Colorado Party headquarters. A few hours later, a group of followers of the Argana faction "peacefully" occupied the building to request

that Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme begin negotiations to change the presidential ticket to Seifart-Ybanez or Ybanez-Seifart. Riquelme told them that he "would keep their petition in his office."

Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Colorado Party candidate for president of the Republic, last night presented the government plan he will defend for the next 9 May general elections. The main members of the Colorado Party executive board as well as other special guests attended the ceremony.

The plan is divided into four points: political, social, economic, and sectorial. In the political field Wasmosy said that the public administration will be carried out based on democratic principles; in the social field, he said that the people will be the priority.

In the economic field, Wasmosy said that if he wins the elections he will not implement a wild capitalist system, but a social market economy which, he said, is perfectly in keeping with the Colorado Party doctrine.

"They are saying that we will fire public employees. They are wrong. We want to rationalize the state apparatus, and improve it. If the economy improves don't you think that the private sector will take away the best public employees? asked Wasmosy, the candidate proclaimed by the party electoral court. [passage omitted]

Wasmosy Cited on Colorado Economic Program

PY2203144993 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 93 pp 18, 19

[Text] Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Colorado Party candidate for president of the Republic, closed the series of working breakfasts with presidential candidates organized by the Christian Businessmen's Association (ADEC).

Wasmosy said that the main goal of his economic objectives is a balanced budget, and as long as the fiscal income progressively increases and pays for current expenses (salaries, administrative expenses, and public investments), he intends to use the resources obtained from royalties and compensations paid by the Itaipu binational entity to finance agrarian reform, the industrialization of the agricultural products, and building productive infrastructure through a national development fund.

Market Economy

The Colorado candidate said that his economic ideology is that of a market economy, with little government intervention and greater freedom for private initiative without returning to either an outdated liberal model nor to wild capitalism. He ruled out all kinds of demagoguery and populist attitudes.

According to Wasmosy, the problems of underdevelopment cannot be solved with short-term demagogic measures, but rather by creating an economic atmosphere that—although it may include some apparently painful and even unpopular measures—will allow sustained development with social justice.

He promised that if he were forced to make crucial decisions, he would without a doubt give up his level of popularity to adopt more vigorous measures in favor of the economic and social stability of the country.

He said that by controlling inflation he will eliminate the most immoral and unfair despoilments.

Balanced Budget

Wasmosy gave details of the basis of his economic program of which he stressed the following essential points: A balanced budget, mainly by appropriately reducing public expenses, privatization, and giving up government activities that generate losses and which may be better exploited by private initiative.

He said he favors greater public investment in the productive field; control of inflation within acceptable limits by adopting measures to correct the overvaluation of the guarani and seeking the compatibility of lower interest rates with a monetary balance to attract foreign investments.

He also said he would prioritize public spending in the field of health and education; decentralize and rationalize public administration seeking austerity, transparency, and efficiency; a financial system to promote stability and flexible financing for the productive sector; an autonomous central bank; and the integration of the three pillars of modernization which, according to Wasmosy, are: energy, transportation, and communications.

A Lower Tax Burden

The Colorado economic program aims to attain a stable legal, economic, social, and institutional atmosphere to stimulate local and foreign investments and production, and to create more jobs. Within the context of a fiscal balance, Wasmosy will seek to definitively eliminate the issuance of money without backing to finance public expenses, given that this generates inflation.

When speaking of his budget goals, he said he intends to maintain the current tax burden at 8.3 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, but he will seek to expand the mass of contributors by reducing the fiscal pressure which today is at about 60 percent [not further specified].

The reduction and rationalization of expenses, especially in those fields that are not directly productive, have a special place in the Colorado program, given that the intention is to eliminate unnecessary, expensive, and inefficient bureaucracy.

He also said that in cases where fiscal resources are scarce, expenses will be reduced through organized automatic mechanisms to prevent budget imbalances, issuing money without backing, and consequently, inflation.

The privatization of public companies occupies a special section. The Colorado candidate intends to accelerate the process, especially in the case of those companies where a government presence is not clearly and unquestionably necessary. As an example he mentioned the cases of LAP [Paraguayan Airlines], APAL [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration], Flomeres [State Merchant Fleet], and Acepar [Paraguayan Steel, Inc.]. He mentioned the partial privatization and leasing [preceding word given in English] of ANDE [National Electric Power Administration], Antelco [National Telecommunications Administration], Corposana [Water and Sanitation Corporation], and INC [National Cement Industry], whose commercial, maintenance, and distribution services could be privatized.

After explaining his intention to reduce and prioritize public expenses according to essential needs, Wasmosy said that an appropriate budget allocation will have to be made to finance the development of private activities to promote the creation of jobs without subsidizing them.

Wasmosy also said he intends to use the royalties obtained from Itaipu and the resources obtained from the privatization of public companies to create a national development fund to promote production, agricultural industries, and agrarian reform. He said he does not want to create new structures, but he wants to make maximum use of the private banking system and business organizations. The government would just participate to supervise and safeguard the funds so that they are not misused in other projects.

Beside, this fund would also be eligible for foreign financing to create agricultural industries to process all our agricultural production and export it with added value.

The Colorado candidate also mentioned the creation of ports and free industrial zones to promote the manufacturing and assembly of advanced technological machines for export.

Importance of the Agrarian Reform

The solution to the problem of unemployment must be mainly sought in an efficient agrarian reform which will consist not only of the distribution of land (which most of the times is irrational, he said), but its goal must be to transform the land less peasant into a successful farmer, including changing his mentality and increasing his production level.

"A successful agrarian reform is the best assertion of the right to private property as well as its greatest guarantee," he said. He added that a rational agrarian reform must not inspire fear among productive landowners because anyone who makes rational use of his land will have the support and guarantee of the government as well as legal protection. He said that if confiscation of land is necessary, the owner will be paid a fair price.

Realistic Labor Laws and a Modern IPS [Social Security Institute]

The approval of realistic labor laws and the promotion of investments in human resources (technicians, scientists, high-level management and medium-level administrative command posts) also figure among the proposals of Juan Carlos Wasmosy, ANR candidate for president of the Republic, who stated that generalized training is the best way to prepare the country for the challenge of integration, in addition to preparing negotiators to obtain the maximum advantages for the country.

He pointed out that his government will promote cooperativism and small farmers' associations that will to strengthen institutional groups in the productive zones in the interior of the country.

He also talked about a future modification of the statute of public officials, seeking to adapt it and rearrange it in accordance with the country's new demands. Above all this, the move would give it a new legal structure and aim to train employees for their future inclusion in the private sector where they would be better paid.

"Treaty Cannot be Renegotiated"

During the debate that followed the presentation of the economic program, the official Colorado Party candidate was asked if the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] would make it possible for Paraguay to sell energy to countries other than Brazil, which would imply modifying the treaty. Wasmosy replied that because Brazil provided the initial capital for the hydroelectric dam projects, "Paraguay has no moral right to tell the Brazilians: 'this energy is not going to be yours, we are going to sell it to other countries.'"

He hinted that the moment Paraguay proposes modifying the treaty, Brazil could demand other changes which would be negative for Paraguayan interests. They could say: "When you put up your half the money to match our half and our half of the waters, you will then have the right to sell to others what you do not consume. Brazil's stance is very clear," he said. He added that before trying to change the treaty we should try to respect what was already signed.

"There is a Mature Position to Support the Program"

One question posed by businessmen upon hearing the Colorado Party candidate's proposals was: How will you obtain political support for such good government plans?

"I think we are all friends who think alike and who know what must be done. The difference among us, perhaps, is who has the courage to implement them. Angel Roberto Seifart and I have that courage on behalf of the Colorado Party," Wasmosy said.

He added that we are currently living through a democratic process which "forces us to construct together," adding that "regardless of the political activity, we are maturing, we are growing."

He also referred to the dilemma created by the national Constitution, under which Congress has greater powers than the president of the Republic, "because it is the role of the president and of the vice president to maintain relations and exchange ideas," he said.

Finally, in answer to a question he said that "everything must be the result of an agreement, of dialogue. We must all have the same objective and the same courage," he said.

Education: "Profitable Investment"

The official candidates included in their program the problem of education, considering it "the most profitable investment a country can make." Those present asked him about the possibility of extending the number of school days and reducing to 20 the number of students per classroom, citing the system implemented in Japan.

He said: "That will be made possible through the funds from privatizations, royalties, and compensations from Itaipu, which should not be included in the regular budget."

Wasmosy added that education and professional training must be a "national obsession, in the sense of making education more technical, considering that there are thousands of high school students specialized in social studies graduating every year who have no access to the employment market."

He added that through technical training one can achieve the intellectual means needed for a competitive market because "we must be on equal footing at least with our neighbors from Mercosur."

Liberal Party Registers 588 Liberal Candidates

PY1903210893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] The Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] yesterday registered 588 candidates at the Central Electoral Board [JEC] for the different elective posts that will be disputed in the 9 May general elections. The registrations were made by PLRA Chairman Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin and electoral campaign chief Luis Guanes Gondra.

The largest opposition political force yesterday registered the lists of candidates for the following posts: president and vice president of the Republic, senators and deputies, governors and members of departmental boards. To this effect, the PLRA president and the party's electoral campaign chief gave JEC Administrative Secretary Magno Vargas folders containing the names of candidates.

"We have complied with the requirements demanded by the electoral law and we hope that these documents will receive the appropriate treatment so that we may be able to compete in the upcoming elections," the PLRA chairman said. Vargas promised to give them the appropriate treatment as demanded by law, and "to inform in due time of any formal actions that might be necessary."

Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin are the party candidates for president and vice president.

With the registration of the PLRA at the JEC the possibility of an electoral alliance of the opposition has been ruled out. Benitez Florentin said that a coalition has been sought by all means, but unfortunately it was not possible. He added that he does not want to blame anyone for the failure of negotiations, but added that if his party wins the elections, a government of national unity will be organized.

Benitez Florentin regretted the failure of negotiations to achieve a great opposition alliance to face the elections, but added that talks are being held with the other opposition political forces over the creation of an anti-fraud alliance to prevent a distortion of the electoral process and at the same time to guarantee clear and free elections.

National Encounter Alliance Registers Candidates

PY2003154693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Mar 93 p 6

[Excerpts] The National Encounter alliance on 19 March registered its candidates for president, vice president, senators, deputies, governors, and members of departmental boards at the Central Electoral Board [JEC]. [passage omitted]

The alliances "Social and Democratic Coalition" and the "Social Progressive Movement," which promote the presidential candidacies of Ricardo Canese and Leando Prieto Yegros, respectively, also registered at the JEC. [passage omitted]

PLRA Candidate Cited on Privatization Plans

PY1903211193 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Mar 93 pp 18, 19

[Text] If the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] wins the May elections, the national government's key policy will be based on the privatization of state-run companies, including the State Merchant Fleet (Flomeres); Paraguayan Steel, Inc. (Acepar); Paraguayan Alcohol Administration (Apal); Paraguayan Airlines, Inc. (LAPSA); the Carlos A. Lopez Central Railroad; and even certain Social Security Institute (IPS) services.

This remark was made yesterday by PLRA presidential candidate Domingo Laino during the first working luncheon sponsored by the Paraguayan-American Chamber of Commerce.

Laino explained that the privatization process of the state-run companies will have to be carried out within the Constitution. He added that more care will have to be exercised with monopolies because it would not be

possible to transfer a monopoly from the public to the private sector, considering that liberal beliefs are absolutely against monopolies.

In this regard, Laino said that his administration will not sign any new international treaty that does not establish clear mechanisms that will give our country reasonable assurances that the clauses will be respected and impartially applied. Laino asked rhetorically about the purpose of signing treaties whose clauses are a dead letter in Paraguay. Laino made this remark because Argentina has imposed a barrier to Paraguayan exports by implementing a statistical tax, thus openly violating the integration treaty.

Entrepreneurial Modernization

It is impossible for a country with a productive structure that lacks diversification and technology, with areas that produce very little, and with a nearly stagnant industrialization process to become modernized or create jobs for a growing economically active population, Laino said.

Laino said that to achieve modernization and create jobs, it is necessary to eliminate the burden of a state marked by excesses, privileges, and patronage and replace it with a dynamic state that will promote growth, industrialization, diversification, production technology, and production and marketing groups. Speculative investments and ineffective economic activities will be discouraged, he said.

Although the Paraguayan-American Chamber of Commerce described this year's initial activity as "The Chamber Asks the Candidate" and, to this end, prepared 12 questions on his economic program, Laino was unable to focus on various points mentioned in the program.

Tax Policy

Laino said he fully agrees with the Tax Law and described it as positive and important because, after a comparison with the past system, there is better tax administration. He indicated, however, that the problem is that the public sector, specifically the Finance Ministry, lacked the political will to implement the law. He stressed that taxes are not being paid as a result of corruption and patronage, among other reasons. He added that it would be ideal for our country to totally eradicate evasion habits through a campaign for conscientiousness because people nowadays do not believe their money is being correctly applied and do not realize how important their payments are in order to meet social demands.

Questions

The program actually implemented required the presidential hopeful to respond on the role the state would play under his administration, on whether he believes the existence of a capital market is necessary or advantageous, and on whether he would encourage trade union-entrepreneurial groups and, among other things, promote a policy of talks among the local economy's main participants.

Government Establishes Rules for Electing Union Leaders

PY1903230993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Mar 93 p 22

[Text] Through Decree No. 16769, the Executive Branch established rules for the election of labor union leaders. Considering that one of the most inalienable human rights is the right of assembly (Article 42 of the national Constitution [CN]), that of creating labor unions (Article 96 of the CN), and participating in public affairs by voting," it states [sentence and quotation marks as published].

Among its most important points, the decree points out in Article 1: "The Labor Ministry will register and recognize labor unions of first, second, and third degrees and will only recognize as legitimate the leaders and representatives who have been elected in accordance with the provisions contained in the present decree and the Electoral Law."

Article 2 establishes a 120-day period for the aforementioned organizations to adjust their bylaws and elect their officials according to the regulations. After the deadline, only those organizations whose representatives are elected in keeping with the decree's regulations will have legal recognition as unions.

Article 3 sets forth that to prove their fulfillment of this decree's terms, the organizations will report to the Labor Ministry the date of their elections, and, after the elections, the organizations will report the results to justify the legitimacy of their leaders.

Electoral Rules

Article 4 sets forth that within 30 days of the decree's issuance, all the aforementioned labor organizations will inform their members and supporters that they can elect new leaders with the new regulations established herein.

Article 5 establishes that to hold elections, all the organizations will provide for—in their bylaws—the creation of an electoral body (electoral commission or tribunal) that will be the internal, free, and independent authority that will be responsible for appropriate implementation of electoral processes.

Article 6 states that if the bylaws of those organizations do not provide for such an electoral body, their current officials will have provisional status until the appropriate provisions are included in the bylaws.

The next article sets forth that if the current officials are reluctant to comply with the terms of Article 4, any worker may ask a labor judge to compel said authorities

to create the electoral body, under penalty of ordering Labor Ministry authorities to implement the electoral process, if the organizations' officials do not fulfill the judge's order on schedule.

Article 10 establishes that the same rules will apply to the election of officials for second- and third-level organizations and unions of workers in enterprises or trade areas. Consequently, the authorities will be elected by direct, secret, universal vote by all members who belong to the rank and file or who are linked to the union.

Article 11 sets forth that electoral records will be based on the list of workers and employees that employers must keep. The lists will be provided by the appropriate section of the Labor Ministry.

The decree, which has 52 articles, has awakened strong reactions from the labor centrals and unions that have been affected.

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in Three Departments

PA2003194393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Lima, 20 Mar (AFP)—The Peruvian Government announced on 20 March that it is extending the state of emergency in various provinces in three departments of the Amazon region "to expedite operations against terrorism and drug trafficking in the zone."

The state of emergency outlined in a decree published by the government newspaper El PERUANO covers the Coronel Portillo and Padre Abad Provinces in Ucayali Department, 700 km east of Lima; Ucayali Province in Loreto Department, 500 km east of Lima; and Puerto Inca in Huanuco Department, 500 km east of Lima.

The authorities said the state of emergency is in effect in approximately 60 percent of the national territory. That means constitutional guarantees are suspended and military authorities maintain internal order. [passage omitted]

President Asks Congressmen To Create 'Applicable' Constitution

PA2103033693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] One of the schools inaugurated by President Alberto Fujimori was the Beginners Educational Center [Centro Educativo Inicial] No. 112 in San Juan Macias neighborhood in Callao. One's attention was drawn to the fact that the ceremony was attended by Change 90 and New Majority Movement congressmen, including Rafael Rey of the Renewal Movement.

During the inauguration of Educational Center No. 5095 in the third phase of the Bocanegra country estate (fundo Bocanegra), President Fujimori asked the congressmen who accompanied him to create an applicable constitution, not one that focuses only on rhetoric.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] We do not need a superperfect constitution but one that is applicable, that will serve the country and its people and not only 10 percent of the population. As a citizen, I have expressed a view that surely most of you support, to the effect that the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] must conduct debates based on ideas. Their debates should not be academic; they should not pay so much attention to periods and commas. We need a pragmatic constitution suitable for our times, especially one that will benefit our people and will not eventually lose its authority.

We must make an effort to resolve the country's biggest problems, and the constitution must serve that purpose. This, of course, requires imagination but it also requires more profound and involved contact with the Peruvian reality. I often tell politicians that they should make a few brief visits to the human settlements. A few brief visits to get an in-depth knowledge of Peru, of the residents of these poor neighborhoods, which would help them a great deal in creating the constitution. [applause]

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] criticism; were you tweaking the ears of the Constitution Commission members?

[Fujimori] That was not my intention. Furthermore, you do not see Luz Salgado or Martha Chavez with red ears. [laughs] [end recording]

Foreign Minister Discusses Human Rights Policy

PY2003013893 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p A4

[Interview with Oscar de La Puente, foreign minister and president of the Council of Ministers, by Oscar Mejia Orellana; place and date not given]

[Text] According to the 1979 Peruvian Constitution, both in its preamble and in Chapter 1, human rights are defended in an express and tangible manner; according to Shining Path doctrinal documents and public manifestos, however, human rights are "... a bourgeoisie lie," "... a bourgeoisie trick," and "... a cowardly idealism."

Why are we making this comparison? In the past few days Peru has had to struggle to prevent its efforts for rejoining the international financial community from being obstructed. The reason: the defense of human rights.

We ask ourselves, have the deaths of thousands of men, women, children, and elderly at the hands of this fundamentalist group been in vain in understanding who the main human rights violators are in Peru?

Oscar de la Puente Raygada, foreign minister and president of the Council of Ministers, answers questions describing the human rights situation he has had to defend in international forums.

[Mejia] Of what did the observations of the new U.S. Administration regarding human rights in Peru consist?

[De la Puente] The U.S. Government expressed its concern over specific issues connected with human rights in Peru. The Peruvian Government is convinced of the U.S. Government's goodwill regarding its concerns and it has understood it so. We must point out, however, that we already were dealing with these problems. I must recall that during my speech before the UN Human Rights Committee, I invited the Inter-American Human Rights Committee to visit our country. We also will invite delegations from friendly countries. In my speech I also stressed the importance the Peruvian Government gives to the work done by the International Red Cross, with whose president, Mr. Sommaruga, I held a very fruitful conversation in Geneva and with whose representative in Peru we just signed an agreement so Red Cross people can visit
Peruvian prisons.

The recent trip by our justice and economy ministers to Washington has allowed U.S. officials to learn about our progress in the field of human rights, as well as our administration's firm determination to pacify the country within the strictest respect for human rights.

[Mejia] According to an official report by the U.S. State Department, a shadow still exists over the Peruvian Government. "Few human rights abuses are completely investigated, and the trial of Armed Forces members is unusual." What is the foundation of this statement?

[De la Puente] The Peruvian Government investigates all charges of alleged human rights violations raised before the courts or any appropriate international organization. We are committed, as the president of the Republic has said, to investigating and punishing anyone responsible for violations of this kind. The recent sentence by the Supreme Military Court against an Army officer involved in the Santa Barbara massacre and the Military Court of Appeals ruling against another Army officer involved in the Accomarca massacre are examples of this.

[Mejia] You also have requested international help to carry out courses and seminars to inform and train people on human rights. How far would this be extended and at what levels would you work?

[De la Puente] The UN Human Rights Center renders several cooperation services, one of which is aimed at training public employees and police and Armed Forces members on human rights so that, through this counseling service, they will have a thorough knowledge of the international pacts on the subject and their application in the domestic field.

[Mejia] Finally, the International Red Cross Committee had conditioned its visits to the four Peruvian prisons until the case of the recording and broadcast of the meeting between Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman and Red Cross members that took place on 25 September 1992 in the Dincote [National Counterterrorism Directorate] is clarified. Are there any people responsible for this action?

[De la Puente] The government has ordered a thorough investigation of the recorded interview and how it reached the magazine. As in previous cases, the officers found to be responsible for this will be strictly punished.

[Mejia] During the 49th session of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva you expressed the Peruvian Government's will to develop a culture of respect for human rights. Could you expand further on this concept?

[De la Puente] Yes. The Peruvian Government is committed to a process of pacification, and one of its basic pillars is total respect for human rights.

The government, through the Education Ministry, has developed a studies program on human rights, which begins when children are five years old and is extended to all the aspects connected with basic human rights.

This effort is one of the most important efforts by the current administration because it is directly connected to the humanist formation of children and young people in our country, which constitutes an essential factor to reach the pacification of the country, strengthening and promoting a culture of peace.

To this effort we must add the human rights principles being taught in all the institutes of the Armed Forces and military training centers.

Investigating Committees To Have Access to 'Any' Information

PY2003185893 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p A4

[Excerpts] The investigating committees that will be created in the upcoming Congress will have access to any type of information, including privileged banking information and tax reserves to fulfill their duties.

Opposition blocs approved this principle as part of the legislative power's attribution included in the constitutional project being drafted by the Democratic Constitution Congress [CCD] Committee. [passage omitted] The committee also approved 12 new articles for the revised Chapter IV of the Constitution. Some of them repeat various principles included in the existing Constitution, such as the irrevocability of congressional duties and the fact that congressmen are not subject to the imperative mandate.

It was also decided to include in the Constitution the CCD internal regulations that state that congressmen have to discharge their duties full time and that they are not authorized to assume other tasks during the congressional sessions. [passage omitted]

Creation of Permanent Congressional Committee Approved

PY2003145593 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p A2

[Excerpt] The Constitution and Rules and Regulations Committee of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] on 10 March approved the creation of a permanent committee that will be assigned certain powers of the defunct Congress within the single legislative chamber of the future Congress. This committee will be empowered to designate and ratify high-ranking public officials. This measure was adopted to improve Congressional performance. The attributions of this permanent commission greatly surpass the restrictions established in the previous constitution, because it will be made up of representatives from various political blocs in Congress so that a maximum concensus can be reached on the decisions to be adopted.

CCD President Carlos Torres y Torres has stated that the committee will be empowered to designate the general comptroller, the Central Reserve Bank president, and the Banks and Insurance Companies superintendent; to approve supplementary credits; to delegate responsibilities, and even to issue regulations. This measure will turn Congress into a specialized and widely representative institution.

The CCD also approved the universal principle of nonretroactivity of the laws, with the only exception of the penal case, provided that they favor the criminal. Torres y Torres Lara said that this decision favors the country because it contributes to eliminating the distortion created by the Constitution, which included the labor and tax issues as the exceptions. [passage omitted]

New Intellectual Property Institute Created

PY2003140693 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Mar 93 p A3

[Text] The Itintec [Institute for Technological and Standards Research] will be abolished following the establishment of the National Institute of Competition and Intellectual Property Protection [Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Proteccion de la Propiedad Intelectual] (Indecopi) on 8 March. Nevertheless, a number of resolutions on the protection of the establishment of patents rights, industrial trademarks, and copyrights will especially become effective. In the opinion of Indecopi, however, the laws governing these areas present positive and negative aspects that will have to either be improved or corrected.

Concerning the establishment of patents and industrial trademarks, a task that the abolished Itintec performed in the past, the "Industrial Protection Law" ["Ley de Proteccion Industrial"] will be applied. The goal of this law, to the letter, is "to protect the creations of inventors as well as the rights on trade logotypes, that is, trademarks, slogans, commercial brands, and so on, that are described as industrial property in accordance with Decision No. 313 of the Cartagena Accord."

Dr. Rafael Rosello [not further identified] explained that the industrial property issue is governed by supranational rules and regulations, such as the Cartagena Accord decisions. Decision No. 313 (Article No. 118) of the Cartagena Accord authorizes its member countries to issue domestic resolutions aimed at expanding or strengthening industrial property rights.

Thus, in this context, the new Peruvian Industrial Protection Law represents an interesting contribution that complements Decision No. 313. Some restrictive aspects, however, may be noticed.

Concerning the positive aspects, Rosello said, it was established that "everything may be patented with the exception of four areas: inventions violating public order, animal species and breeds, inventions involving human body material, and inventions concerning nuclear and fissionable materials."

In the past, specifically under Decision No. 85 of the Cartagena Accord, it was established that the inventions involving scientific discoveries, the discovery of natural materials, artistic creations, commercial plans, financial accounts, and therapeutic methods were not patentable. It was also established that pharmaceutical products, medicines, and inventions involving the development of a member country were not patentable.

Under these rules and regulations, Rosello said, it was the responsibility of the government or authority to establish what was or was not patentable.

Are You an Inventor?

What May an Inventor Do?

* Pursuant to the law, an inventor may exploit his or her invention; that is, develop it, preventing anyone else from using it. The patent grants the inventor exclusive rights to use his or her invention.

* Another possibility is that an inventor may reach an agreement with certain people to exploit, through a contract and by issuing a license, his or her invention in exchange for a royalty.

* The third possibility is that an inventor may not use any one of the preceding possibilities, in which case the law requires the granting of a mandatory license. Such a license will consist of the following: Three years after granting a patent, a third party may be entitled to exploit an invention, not by copying it, but by formally requesting the appropriate permit (license) from Indecopi in exchange for the payment of a reasonable royalty.

* An inventor has the possibility of filing charges against the plagiarist, stop the invention's production and manufacture, confiscate the manufactured products, and stop advertising. Rosello explained that these actions existed in the past but were not effective because many

products, which now are patentable, were not patentable and anyone could copy them.

Negative Aspects of the Industrial Property Law

How much does it cost to register a patent in Peru? Not less than $1,000, Dr. Rosello reported. Thus, to register an invention is not only a costly process but also a cumbersome one. It is believed the new laws seek to correct this process.

According to some experts, the Industrial Property Law, which will govern the Indecopi, has some negative aspects. Dr. Rafael Rosello cites some of them:

• Concerning trademarks, there is a serious retrogression, because proof that trademarks are being used, a requirement that already was eliminated through Decision No. 313, is again requested. This means that it will be necessary to prove that the trademark has been used to renew the rights on it. There is a contradiction because trademarks are registered for a 10-year period despite the fact that the law establishes that if the trademark is not used for a five-year period, it will be subject to cancellation.

• Restrictions are established to protect commercial brands. It is established that commercial brands will be restricted to geographical areas. This means that, if a commercial brand is used in Chota, it may be copied in Lima. The law also establishes that licenses on a brand cannot be granted separately, but together with the company, thus eliminating trade concessions. This means that a company will be unable to grant to another party the right to use its commercial brand.

Interior Minister Denies Police Links With Drug Traffickers

PY2003132893 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p A5

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila yesterday denied alleged links between drug traffickers and police that operate in Upper Huallaga. The minister said that the Interior Ministry has not heard about any bribes being paid for the appointment of officers to work in the region.

A detailed report presented to the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] Supervising Committee, which is investigating drug-trafficking charges, states that the police sent to the Upper Huallaga region "are carefully selected in accordance with their excellent skills and—for security reasons—the National Police permanently reports on the overall rotation of officers who are on active duty in the region."

Minister Briones Davila said that these officers obey the rotating appointment schedules and must report to their superiors a declaration of personal assets. In addition, the supervising organizations permanently control their performance.

Coordinated Work

The minister denied clashes among the antinarcotics police and other institutions operating in Upper Huallaga. On the contrary, he said, there is permanent and close coordination with the armed forces regarding drug enforcement efforts, which are conducted in accordance with the provisions in force.

The minister refuted reports stating that since 5 April 1992 drug trafficking has increased in the Huallaga valley. He said that since that date, drug enforcement operations increased in the region and resulted in the arrest of 13 percent more drug traffickers than in 1991. He added that from January 1992 to January 1993, 86 percent more cocaine paste and 772 percent more raw material have been seized in the Huallaga valley.

Police Moralization

Minister Briones Davila said that, as has already been reported, the charges of a systematic corruption scheme, immoral acts, and acts that go against the duties of the personnel in charge of drug enforcement operations are groundless. "The few cases that have been detected have been duly investigated and those found responsible for them have been dismissed and placed at the disposal of the courts."

He added that the moralization measures have been intensified in compliance with the guidelines established by the Peruvian National Police [PNP] command.

Asked about alleged protection given to planes carrying drugs in the coca-producing areas, Minister Briones Davila said that the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] has been conducting operations to control measures adopted at airports and landing strips in the Huallaga region, and other parts of the country where coca is grown, in compliance with the terms of Decree 25426.

He said: "The PNP Antidrug Division, Dirandro, conducts drug enforcement operations closely coordinated with the Armed Forces, the FAP, the Peruvian Army, and the Peruvian Navy in areas of the Huallaga and Aguaytia regions."

The interior minister visited the CCD committe in the company of PNP Director General Victor Alva Plascencia and Dirandro Head Edwin Reategui. Reategui has reported that in the last three years, 19,635 kg of cocaine paste; 32,700 kg of chemicals, 174 vehicles; 130 weapons; and $257,760, among other things, have been seized; and that 586 maceration pits have been destroyed.

FAP's Efforts To Control 'Narco-Airstrips' Viewed

PY2003025493 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Mar 93 p 16

[Article by Francisco Reyes of LA REPUBLICA's Investigative Unit]

[Text] The Peruvian Air Force, FAP, after several reconnaissance flights over Huallaga and Aguaytia, was able to determine that there are no less than 200 airstrips used by drug traffickers in the coca-growing area of Peru.

The clandestine runways are used by the drug traffickers to ship thousands of kilos of drugs to Colombia, Brazil, and Ecuador in an average of 700 flights per year.

Fifteen of the 200 airstrips have been built on the Marginal Highway but only two of them have been obstructed with iron and concrete blocks.

How much would it cost to destroy all these landing strips? Not even 1 percent of the budget earmarked for the "struggle against drug trafficking."

It is asserted that there is not enough money to neutralize the narco-airstrips but LA REPUBLICA repeatedly has reported that these very airfields have been built with machinery belonging to the transitory government of the San Martin Region and certain provincial and district municipalities.

Another paradox of the struggle against drug trafficking is that many of the loading sites are located near Army bases, such as in Aucayacu, Puerto Pizana, Tananta, and Barranca.

In addition to the landing strips located in the midst of the jungle or in appropriate segments of the Marginal Highway, the drug traffickers also use municipal airports such as those at Bellavista and Saposoa, two cities under heavy military control.

Precisely on 12 November 1992, Captain "Paris," head of the politicomilitary command in Saposoa, was arrested by the antinarcotics police with the drug collector named "Singa," who is the right-hand man of a drug trafficker known as "El Cambista."

The captain, who was guarded by eight soldiers and dressed in street clothes, was with Singa in a light blue, double-cabin van with tinted windows loaded with 200 kg of white coca paste.

The antinarcotics police had no other alternative but to arrest Captain "Paris," issue the corresponding report, hand the case over to court, and send the corresponding report to the Army.

"Paris," however, has not been dismissed from the Army. Quite the opposite. Sources from the antinarcotic police in Lima stated that strong pressure is being exerted to withdraw the charges and file the case.

Despite the efforts made by FAP, which last April deployed troops toward Uchiza, Tocache, Juanjui, and Yurimaguas, drug trafficking has spread.

In view of FAP's surveillance of some of the airstrips, drug traffickers spread to the surrounding area and throughout Huallaga.

During a recent visit to Huallaga, LA REPUBLICA found out that the Saposoa and Bellavista airports have been run by drug traffickers since October. Why hasn't the government ordered FAP to take control of these airports?

In Uchiza, Tocache, and Juanjui, under FAP's rule, soldiers organize excursions to the surrounding areas with local youths and youngsters who learn minimum survival rules and play sports. The soldiers could just as well go to Saposoa and Bellavista.

Father Fermin Cantabrana Rioja, parish priest of Juanjui city, in view of the government's passive attitude and the growth of drug trafficking during the past year, recently stated that if something isn't done immediately the situation could become intolerable.

His statement on drug trafficking published by LA REPUBLICA, however, caused the priest problems.

On 29 December 1992, the day after he made this statement, Father Fermin Cantabrana had to report to the Juanjui countersubversive base.

He was welcomed at the base by General Eduardo Bellido Mora, head of the politicomiliitary command of the Huallaga front, who arrived by helicopter from the headquarters in Tarapoto.

Gen. Bellido warned Father Fermin about his comments and adamantly demanded that he prove his charges that Army troops in Huallaga are involved with drug traffickers.

The parish priest thus became an investigator of the existing military corruption. After having made charges, charges were made against him. What role does the office of the Army inspector general or the Attorney General's Office play?

Without hesitating, Father Fermin said there was no need to prove what was obvious but that if he was required to back his charges, he would have no problem making a list of dates and names of soldiers responsible for the shipment of drugs and clashes with subversive elements for the purpose of getting a better cut in the deal.

Aware of the problems his comments would cause, Father Fermin told LA REPUBLICA that "one must know how to live and how to die." Finally, Father Fermin had to leave his parish and seek refuge in Lima while Gen. Bellido was confirmed in his post for another year by General Nicolas Hermoza Rios, Army commander and Joint Command president.

A sad inhabitant from Juanjui, sorry about Father Fermin's seemingly definite departure, commented: "Nothing is happening here." Although he is in Lima, people from Juanjui still ask Father Fermin to marry them or baptize their children.

An indignant housewife said: "Drug trafficking may buy the peoples' will but not their soul or their conscience."

Shining Path University Leader Arrested

PY2003000793 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Mar 93 p A17

[Text] The National Police Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote) has arrested the former deputy director of the Cesar Vallejo Pre-University Academy, which was raided on 17 June 1992 by Dincote agents. He is Javier Tasayco Casas, who was not in the institute when the raid was carried out.

One of the teachers arrested then was Luis Alberto Arana Franco, who is known as "Comrade Maradona" or "Comrade Sotil." He was responsible for logistics in the Shining Path national directorate. A police official said that in 1986 Arana took over the "management" of the academy, which was one of the main sources of members for the Shining Path.

The police official added that Tasayco Casas was a trusted friend of "Comrade Maradona." When Maradona's house was raided, police found 30 color pictures of the funeral wake of Augusta La Torre Carrasco, "Comrade Norah," wife of Shining Path founder and leader Abimael Guzman Reinoso, alias "President Gonzalo."

Tasayco Casas was one of the main leaders responsible for recruiting, selecting, and indoctrinating students who received scholarship offers if they came from the provinces or lived in shantytowns.

The pre-university students who approved the "exams" were immediately promoted by Tasayco to the so-called "Popular Youth Movement." This is where the students were indoctrinated and forced to make commitments, such as to become classroom delegates if they entered the university and to live on the university campus. They later became the new members of the "Popular Assistance," which is a special group in charge of committing selective murders through "checkups," which are a kind of vigilante and exhaustive follow-up operation to ensure the "success" of criminal attacks against people.

According to unconfirmed reports, Tasayco was active in indoctrinating pre-university students when he was arrested.

Dincote is maintaining complete secrecy on the arrest of Tasayco Casas, who, it has been learned, was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Police Present Two Shining Path Members to Media

PA2003174293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0226 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The National Counterterrorism Directorate presented to the media two alleged subversives who murdered union leader Pedro Huillca Tecse on 18 December. Their arrest means the virtual dismemberment of the Shining Path annihilation cell that operated in Lima's northern area because most of the cell's members are in jail.

Mariano Rafael Uscata, 39, alias Comrade Hernan, of the military command unit and Margot Cecilia Dominguez de Rospi, comrade Edith, 26, of the political command unit denied the charges against them while being shown to the media. They also accused the police of torturing them during interrogations. The Shining Path cell is believed to be responsible for the murders of Police noncommissioned officer Jose Luis Vega Napa on 22 December and Police Captain Marco Antonio Velazquez Colchado on 2 March. The two were killed in San Martin de Porras. At the time of the subversives' arrest, police confiscated three revolvers, one handgun, one grenade, and identification cards of Velazquez and others. The police feel the arrests have provided a full explanation for Huillca's murder, although a member of the annihilation cell known as Comrade Manolo is still at large.

Council of Ministers President on Foreign Debt Negotiations

PA2003163693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0226 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president, said on 19 March that economic reintegration does not mean populism or a handout of resources. Let us listen to him.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] The IMF, the World Bank, and multilateral organizations are again receiving Peru to make us eligible for loans and worthy of international aid based on the country's development. After the documents already approved by the directors are corrected, Peru will begin a new phase of negotiations next week with the Paris Club to discuss the important topic of obligations with other EC countries. We will then discuss direct debts with common creditors. What we have done is very important. It is a recognition of the major effort the country has carried out, which has entailed a huge and extraordinary sacrifice. The Peruvian people have borne that sacrifice with great stoicism. We have no doubt that the moment Peru has access to international organizations, and not just for loan financial operations but also to assert its rights—I am referring to criticisms of human rights violations— our actions will be justified by the fact that we succeeded in being seen abroad as a country that has recovered its prestige in the international financial field. It is very important to point this out because we have recovered Peru's prestige after many years as an outcast, as President Alberto Fujimori and Economy Minister Jorge Camet said on 18 March. We had no credibility. We were declared a noneligible country, which means we were unable to receive loans.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]?

[De la Puente] As the economy and finance minister said, on one side we have the reprogramming of short-term obligations to provide relief to our cashbox [caja] to keep our commitments. Then there is the effort to reduce our debts with third countries by having them condoned. It is not advisable to become arrogant now and say everything has been resolved; so let us open our cashboxes because we have money to spend without any kind of controls. Growth has to come with adjustments and equity. We must also prove we are a solvent country by keeping our commitments and having efficient productivity.

[Reporter] Peru is no longer an outcast in the financial field, as the president said. For some human rights organizations, however, the country remains an outcast. What will your office do to try to ease [words indistinct]?

[De la Puente] My speech before the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and the work that Camet and Justice Minister Fernando Vega conducted in Washington at the same time, made it obvious that Peru has no constraints in the treatment and defense of human rights. [end recording]

U.S.' Aronson's 'Interference' in Domestic Affairs Criticized

PY2003014793 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p A23

[Editorial by Patricio Ricketts Rey de Castro]

[Text] Should those who want to have a finger in every pie manage to find their niche in the picturesque government of fair representation for minority groups proposed by Clinton, as gays and lesbians have, Bernard Aronson would be irreplaceable as assistant secretary for inter-American affairs. It is impossible to imagine a better-qualified candidate. He is perfect for sowing discord in relations between the countries of the hemisphere now that the United States seems to have grown weary of its old tradition of mutual respect, nonintervention, and solidarity, and wishes to introduce Far West [preceding two words in English]-type changes.

Aronson's latest interference in Peruvian domestic affairs improves his record. One should acknowledge this, as a gentleman. Aronson no longer limits himself to the busy sphere of human rights, which is beginning to bore as much as ecology. He now dabbles in Peruvian politics to inform us what the Empire has decided that we should do. Let us be clear, not only the Fujimori administration but all Peruvians, from captains to the rank and file.

Moreover, Aronson does not mince his words. He likes to give every appearance of being tough and somehow needs to be considered as crude as a movie sheriff. Should the ayatollah, or rather, the experts in laissez-faire, suspect him of having a soft heart, he would get the axe.

Therefore, he demands, lays down conditions, threatens. If we do not please him—he warns us—we will continue under his "surveillance." Flanked by the CIA on one side, and those Peruvians who are the apple of his eye—those very few who know what happiness is—on the other. This will perpetuate our isolation. Instead of being able to take advantage of the opportunities open to all peoples, we will have to make do with leftover powdered milk.

What does Aronson really demand? Several things. First and foremost that the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] "become an independent branch," which reading between the lines means political opponent. By the way, here in Peru nobody would ever dream of demanding—as a condition to pay our external debt—that the U.S. Congress gives proof of its independence by rejecting Clinton's policy. But of course, none of us plays Aronson's little games. Besides, his informers in Lima do not seem to have told him that 10 million Peruvians recently elected the CCD under constitutional rules that do away with binding mandates, so much so that a congressman does not have to toe the party line or account to those who supported or voted for him. What does Aronson want, we wonder? A CCD that opposes the Executive Branch to please the U.S. State Department? A system of quotas for the opposition, similar to the quotas for pardoning terrorists, something that Aronson regrets does not exist in Peruvian military courts?

All these issues are especially sensitive when there is a constitution in the making. Does Aronson want a constitution tailored to his wishes and U.S. interests?

It is beyond us to know what he wants. We do know, however, that he carried out a surreptitious campaign against the referendum—to which many U.S. states resort to to settle issues—and that this pressure constitutes an unprecedented issue throughout our history.

Aronson also wishes that "the many be on the government's side." This is quite funny since he seems to overlook the fact that Fujimori has the backing of 62 percent of Peruvians residing in Lima compared with the support of 35 percent of the population that Clinton had during his honeymoon in office. Aronson proposes "a serious dialogue" between the government and "the opposition" to prevent the country's polarization.

Well, then, this is commonplace and nobody questions its validity, provided that it does not lead, as one might very well imagine, to a veto by the minorities supported by the Empire. If that is Aronson's objective, I am pretty sure that Aronson might be able to work a miracle—that Peruvians would unite, but, it goes without saying, to present a united front to the Empire.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Views Bilateral Ties

PY2003134993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Mar 93 pp A8, A9

[Interview with Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes by Victor Cortes—date and place not given]

[Text] [Cortes] Minister Diego Paredes, what are the results and projections of the fourth meeting of foreign ministers of the South Pacific Basin countries for the future of our nations?

[Paredes] I would say that there are two fields in which this fourth meeting of foreign ministers becomes really important: the first, concerning the development of the legal situation of the sea. An international meeting is scheduled to take place soon to establish the legal fishing status in areas close to our 200 miles, because if no protection plan is established to protect the sealife in the high seas, obviously any action adopted by our countries will not be effective, unless an adequate legal order also establishes rules for these zones.

There is a commitment in this regard to adopt a joint policy and unanimously defend our interests in this zone, including the defense of the sea environment, protecting it from toxic substances that can contaminate our waters, and especially sensitive zones such as—for instance—the Galapagos Islands, to protect what represents a natural habitat.

[Cortes] But in practical terms, the great powers have not respected it.

[Paredes] Well, obviously there have been problems; we have had difficulties, but the final result is that the international community has finally accepted this reality. For this reason, there is another field I want to mention from this meeting and which from my point of view represents the commission's efforts to look toward the future. This commission has been charged with designing a policy or guidelines of action to link our countries with those of the East Pacific Basin, which have a great dynamism in their economy, fluent trade, are very rich, and growing technological development.

[Cortes] Do you mean that the interest to develop relations with countries of the Pacific Basin is general and individual at the same time?

[Paredes] Indeed. There is a desire to walk together in this endeavor, of supporting one another, and of seeking stronger individual and collective relations in the economic and technological fields.

[Cortes] There is a feeling among the Peruvian people that, although it is true that relations between our countries have improved, especially since January 1992, it is also true that since that date there has been no greater improvement. Could you clarify this?

[Paredes] Look, the current state of relations between Peru and Ecuador is magnificent. It is obviously important that we try to improve these relations, seeking rapprochement. This is no time for misunderstandings but rather for rapprochement between our peoples, and I believe that the challenge the two countries have is extremely important.

Our countries are very similar, and our peoples also look alike, and current relations are natural. Southern Ecuador and northern Peru have great similarities and enormous possibilities for joint development to supplement each other. I am certain that the two governments want their relations to be the best, and it would be practical to strengthen them.

[Cortes] But so far the Ecuadoran Government has not responded to the proposal of President Alberto Fujimori when he visited Ecuador in January 1992.

[Paredes] Yes, in fact, the Ecuadoran Government is thoroughly studying the proposal made in January by President Fujimori, a proposal that is quite concrete and broad. Likewise, the proposals and positions—although they are of a political and general nature—made by Ecuador together with those of Peru are important contributions to strengthen and seek closer relations. We are particularly interested in them and I am certain that the Peruvian Government is also interested; so analysis of these proposals, by President Fujimori and our viewpoints, must allow for a process of understanding.

[Cortes] At one point it was said that former President Rodrigo Borja has prepared a counterproposal but that unfortunately it was not presented. The people ask: How long will this study last? What is the Ecuadoran answer concerning the Vatican expert's investigation or concerning the free port in the Amazon River, for instance?

[Paredes] Those are very important subjects, and I would say that they are the basic material for talks, of this spirit of dialogue in which Ecuador is fully engaged. I always tell reporters that we must handle these subjects with the courtesy and good sense the situation requires, because what we want is agreement. Success will depend on this.

[Cortes] They are delicate subjects that do not have quick solutions, but it is necessary to point out on what levels are the development.

[Paredes] Well, we have very fluent relations. We have received the Peruvian president three times and every time with great affection by the people of my country. These have been opportunities for the two presidents to hold talks. We are now preparing the visit of President Sixto Duran-Ballen to Peru, and these are occasions to strengthen our relations. We do so through our embassies in Lima and Quito, as well as the contacts that take place often between our officials and between myself and the Peruvian foreign minister.

[Cortes] Mr. Foreign Minister, don't you think that the news on the U.S. spy who—it is said—sold military information from Peru to Ecuador, jeopardizes what has been achieved so far between the two governments?

[Paredes] I do not think it can have any effect because the relations between the two governments, especially, seek understanding. I can say now that Ecuador is not interested in war issues, or conflicts. I think our nations are dedicated to achieving everlasting peace and to leading their peoples on the paths of development.

[Cortes] Yes, but it cannot be denied that it is a delicate matter.

[Paredes] Obviously it is delicate, but there will be an occasion to discuss it with the Peruvian foreign minister.

PRC Donates School Supplies

PY2003003993 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 4 Mar 93 p 23

[Text] Through Ministerial Resolution No. 018-93/PRES, published on 2 March by EL PERUANO, with a month's delay, the Presidency Ministry reports on an important donation granted by the People's Republic of China to Peru. The donation consists mainly of school supplies. This donation will not be distributed by the Education Ministry, as expected, but by the Presidency Ministry. The generous donation includes 15,000 backpacks; 30,000 pencil boxes; 20,000 scissors; 300,000 erasers; 20,000 colored pencils; 10,000 crayons; 30,000 rulers; 200,000 booklets; 20,000 mechanical pencils; 200,000 pencils with erasers; 160,000 charcoal pencils; and 500 bicycles.

As with certain other personalities in this government, he is invisible for the time being. His name is Samuel Won, or perhaps Sam L. Won. In Hong Kong he was linked to the migration of people from Hong Kong to Peru. Now he has a blue Peruvian passport; that is, a special passport (in between the green passports used by the average person and the violet passports used by diplomats). Reliable sources claim that Won heads an organization called Apemkai, which is dedicated to organizing the flow of donations from Asia directly to the Presidency Ministry of Fujimori.

Venezuela

Court Vice President Comments on Perez Case

PA1903024093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report by Johnny Ficarella]

[Text] Supreme Court Vice President Alirio Abreu warned on 18 March that forwarding the request for a preliminary hearing to the Substantiation Division [Sala de Substanciacion] does not mean a definite decision has been made.

Abreu's statement clarifies that accepting the Prosecutor General's request is simply following normal procedure.

[Begin Abreu recording] This is simply an initial procedure in which the Substantiation Division believes it must inform the plenary by forwarding the case file so an arbitrator can be appointed. There is absolutely no ruling at all on the matter; this is simply procedure. [end recording]

It was also learned that the Substantiation Division requested from the Superior Court for the Protection of Public Property a copy of the case file. When the copy of this file is forwarded, the court will appoint a judge who will prepare an opinion on whether grounds exist to take the president to trial.

The Supreme Court plenary meeting will be held on 23 March and will decide on President Carlos Andres Perez's request to treat the case as urgent.

President Promulgates Tamacuro State Constitution

PA2003205593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] During an administrative tour of Tucupita on 19 March, President Carlos Andres Perez promulgated the first Constitution of the new Tamacuro State. State Governor Emeritt Mata Millan and representatives of the region's active sectors accompanied the president during his visit. At the promulgation ceremony, President Perez appointed the members of a commission that will study and present a report within three months on Tamacuro's problems. The commission will be made up of members of the Executive Branch, CVG [Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana], the Legislative Assembly, and the Tamacuro Governor's Office.

[Begin President Perez recording] I have to feel very satisfied because it is one of the big changes in Venezuela and one that has been attained during my administration and with my government's decentralization and regionalization program.

We initially proclaimed the creation of the state. Later, the people elected their first governor, and on 19 March we established the legal structure of Tamacuro State with the proclamation of its Constitution. This is a very special and important event in the history of our country. [end recording]

After visiting Tamacuro State, President Perez went to Falcon to inaugurate the regional aqueduct at the Hueque Barrancas dam. He also inspected construction of the Coro-Churuguara highway. The Hueque dam will provide water to the communities of Coro, La Vela, Puerto Cumarebo, Punto Fijo, Cardon, and Los Taques and other rural areas on the Paraguana peninsula. The Moron and Amuay refineries will also receive the vital liquid and will be able to increase their production by 33 percent.

Perez on Attorney General Socorro's Resignation

PA1903211793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpt] When questioned about remarks made by former Attorney General Nelson Socorro, President Carlos Andres Perez replied that they dispelled doubts regarding Socorro's resignation.

[Begin recording] [Perez] Let us be patient. Everything will turn out fine. The attorney general is entitled to

resign, and the government has nothing to say about the matter. Soccoro's remarks dispel any doubt about the motives for his resignation and show that there was an attempt to blow them out of proportion. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Three Justices Place Jobs at Court's Disposal

PA2003143193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Three justices of the Superior Court for the Protection of Public Property, Rafael Quintero Moreno, Edith Cabello de Requena, and Vicente Villavicencio, have placed their jobs at the disposal of the Supreme Court of Justice because they believe the conditions under which they must function are inappropriate.

According to Rafael Quintero Moreno, president of the Superior Court, the three have institutional reasons for their decision. He said the justices' request made months ago for reforms to the Protection Law has gone unanswered. He also said the budget does not allow sufficient salaries for many employees. The justices are also demanding an adequate building in which to perform their duties. They are currently in an unair-conditioned building and have been ordered to move.

[Begin recording] [Quintero Moreno] There can be no pressure on our decision. Some people want to pressure us, but we do not let that pressure affect us. We have always wanted to act in accordance with the law and our consciences.

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, is your resignation irrevocable?

[Quintero Moreno] We have not resigned. We have placed our jobs at the disposal of the court. You must clearly understand that Edith Cabello de Requena and I have served the state for 34 years, and we are entitled to retirement benefits.

[Cabello de Requena] This is not a pressure tactic. It is a matter of professional honor and self-respect and of respect for the people. We are being criticized, and people are saying that we are not issuing any rulings and that corruption is not being punished. The justices are being blamed for that. [end recording]

The justices did not deny the possibility of reconsidering their decision should their demands be met.

Analysis Says U.S. To Continue Foreign Policy Lines

PA1903035093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Mar 93

["International Analysis" by Carlos Romero]

[Text] Preliminary foreign policy results indicate that the new U.S. Administration under Bill Clinton has decided in principle to continue along the lines inherited from the previous administration. We need, however, to highlight that Clinton wants to place special emphasis on seeking a solution to inherited problems. We should say that Clinton is bent on resolving some of the U.S. foreign policy's basic problems. Specifically, his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, his talks with deposed Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide, and his decided support to the United Nations in connection with the crisis in former Yugoslavia indicate that the U.S. Government wants a solution to international conflicts.

This proves that contrary to what was believed, Clinton is not going and cannot abandon foreign policy, which goes against what was said during the electoral campaign. Despite the campaign emphasis on economic matters, this already shows that Clinton cannot cast aside U.S. international commitments and that the international crises are so great that a firmer position is expected from the United States to solve international problems.

To summarize, we see that President Clinton has decided to reactivate U.S. foreign policy and this is what was expected, because the United States plays an important role in the international context.